SANDWELL
CHRONICLE

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The music man

Twist of fate started love affair with the accordian

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How history is preserved in our 'ordinary' streets

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Win milestone

Jubilant Baggies chalk up their first away victory

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TOWN'S TESCO IS TO OPEN NEXT SUMMER

TRADERS in West Bromwich have welcomed the announcement that the giant Tesco Extra being built as part of the town's £200 million regeneration will open in June.

Supermarket chiefs are targeting June 23 as an opening date. The provisional date has been sent out to nearly 1,200 people hoping for jobs.

by Alex Homer

They have signed up to receive updates on employment prospects at the Tesco store through the town's Job Centre Plus.

Recruitment is anticipated to start around Easter next year for the 325 roles being created at the 144,236sq ft store.

Sandwell Chamber of Commerce president Ninder Johal said: "This is a good piece of news which seems generally to point to signs of the slow recovery of the economy in West Bromwich.

"The area has had a lot of money spent on it. It is great news from the point of view of retail in general.

Rejuvenate

"We're hoping Tesco will help rejuvenate the area and increase footfall to the town."

Long-heralded as the necessary shot in the arm for the town, the Tesco and Sandwell Council's New Square scheme has attracted major names including Primark, Next, JD Sports, Bank, Arcadia, Nandos and Prezzo.

Shoe retailer Deichmann, Phones 4 U and restaurant chain Harvester have signed up and the latest major chain to join the scheme, announced this week, is coffee giant Costa.

Jonathan Simpson, corporate affairs manager for Tesco, said: "The addition of another nationally recognised brand to the scheme is great news for the New Square,.

"The positioning of Costa within the new piazza area helps realise the scheme's vision to create a vibrant, European-inspired outdoor space filled with cafes, restaurants and shops to make New Square a destination for day and night time."

As well as major retailers and restaurants, a new eight-screen Odeon cinema is also being built in the town.

Shoppers using the Tesco store will have free parking. The 1,900 parking spaces being created under the scheme will be charged on a meter, but customers spending a certain amount in store will be able to recoup any fees paid at the meter. That amount has not been set yet.

Danger driver is jailed for car chase

A MAN who swerved round cars and a bus in a dramatic high-speed police chase through Halesowen has been jailed.

Indian national Verindar Singh, of Smethwick, was spotted by police driving at close to twice the speed limit in Hagley Road West.

He then led a chase which saw him "undertake" a bus and squeeze between two stationary cars before finally hitting a traffic sign. He was arrested.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court on Tuesday, Singh, 24, of Arden Road, was jailed for six months and disqualified from driving for 12 months.

He had pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and using a vehicle without insurance at an earlier hearing at Dudley Magistrates' Court.

Geoffrey Dann, prosecuting, said the incident started when police saw Singh, who moved to the UK two years ago, driving a black Vauxhall Corsa, at 12.40pm on September 28 in West Hagley Road.

Suddenly the car accelerated to 51mph in what was a 30mph zone.

Charnjit Jutla, defending, said Singh panicked when he saw police. He added: "He is deeply remorseful for what he had done."

Judge Amjad Nawaz said it was "good fortune was no-one injured".

Homes for care centre

A RESPITE care centre in West Bromwich which closed with the loss of 33 jobs could be bulldozed and turned into new homes.

Warstone House was put up for sale by Sandwell Council earlier this year following its closure last April. It had been used by 72 families.

Worcestershire-based Lioncourt Homes Ltd has now submitted a demolition notification to Sandwell Council to clear the site to pave the way for new homes.

If approved, the proposed start date for the demolition would be December 1.

Couple robbed by dog walkers

A COUPLE were robbed in West Bromwich by thieves who were walking their grey or black bulldog.

A 29-year-old woman and her 26-year-old boyfriend, were in their car in Meadow Avenue when a man opened the door and demanded cash. He and his female companion ran off towards Sandwell Park with the dog.

The man was mixed race, with a large build, and in his early 20s. The robbery happened early on October 28.

Move to convert toilet into a takeaway

Businessman Barry Hall outside the vandal-hit toilet block which he hopes to transform

A VANDALISED toilet block in Bearwood could be converted into a takeaway.

Bosses at Bearwood restaurant Azzari Too are negotiating a deal to take the block in Atkins Road on a 15-year-lease from Sandwell Council.

They want to keep part of the building as public toilets but convert the other half into a takeaway.

Azzari Too owner Barry Hall said: "I spoke to the council about the toilets a while ago and was told they might have to be knocked down. I thought it was a real shame.

"We came up with this idea and had a meeting in April, and since then they have been really supportive. It should be stunning when it's finished."

Revamped

The lease is being drafted and architects are working on plans which will be submitted to Sandwell Council.

The toilets closed about two years ago after they were targeted by vandals. They were revamped by the council in the 1990s.

Sandwell Council deputy leader councillor Steve Eling said: "I think it's a really innovative idea. I was worried we might never get them reopened but to come up with a plan like this – it's fantastic."

Azzari Too, in Three Shires Oak Road, was in the media spotlight earlier this year when it was banned from using the words Pudding Club for a monthly dessert tasting club.

Another Pudding Club, at the Three Ways House Hotel in the Cotswolds, objected.

Council to decide on parking charges

PLANS to double the cost of car parking in Sandwell and introduce charges at 19 new sites are due to be approved by the borough council.

Borough chiefs want to introduce the new charges in April next year.

A report to the borough's neighbourhoods boss Councillor Ian Jones recommends that he approve the plans at a meeting on Friday.

It will cost £140,000 to bring in the changes which will cover the installation of pay and display machines and signs.

If the plan goes ahead, parking in central West Bromwich will rise from 40p per hour to 80p per hour, and from 20p to 40p per hour at car parks outside the town.

Charges will be brought in at car parks in Cradley Heath, Old Hill, Smethwick and Great Bridge. It is also proposed to restrict the maximum period of waiting to four hours in the car parks at Market Place and Lower High Street in Cradley Heath.

The plans have been met with dismay from traders and business leaders in the borough who fear trade will be hit.

However, just 10 people have responded to a consultation on the plans.

A report to Councillor Jones states: "The proposed increases are considered to be sustainable in terms of relative charging levels."

Tributes to the fallen

THOUSANDS of people gathered to take part in ceremonies in Sandwell to remember the members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives in conflicts.

Sandwell's mayor Councillor Keith Davies laid a wreath at a Remembrance Day service in Smethwick, and deputy mayor Councillor Vic Sylvester officiated at a service in West Bromwich.

There were also events at Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Tipton and Wednesbury.

● Full story – Page 2

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CONTACT US

What's happening in your area? We are always keen to hear about any issues affecting you. Email your information and pictures to *wolvchron@expressandstar.co.uk*

Lisa Wright: 01902 319598
lisa.wright@expressandstar.co.uk
Naomi Dunning: 01902 319562
naomi.dunning@expressandstar.co.uk
David Lumb: 01902 319 550
david.lumb@expressandstar.co.uk
Alex Homer: 01902 319 501
alex.homer@expressandstar.co.uk

● If you have a story/event that requires a photographer (Thursdays/Fridays) call Tim Spiers on 01902 319363 or 01902 319466 (Wednesdays only).

Sports
E-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Photographic **John Sambrook**
Tel: 01902 319431

Advertising:
Tracey Thompson
Tel: 01902 319645 E-mail: t.thompson@expressandstar.co.uk

Property:
Colin Bailey
Tel: 01922 444331 E-mail: c.bailey@expressandstar.co.uk

Motoring:
Andrew Mullett
Tel: 01384 353256 a.mullett@expressandstar.co.uk

Classified:
Tel: 01902 317878

Classified trade:
Tel: 01902 319191

Distribution: **Paul Jones**
Tel: 01902 319537 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Plan for new flats at former care home

PLANS have been submitted for the £1 million revamp of a former Great Barr care home which has been taken over by the YMCA.

The charity has bought the former John Dando House from Sandwell Council. The building closed last year with the loss of 19 jobs.

A planning application outlining proposals for alterations and the refurbishment of the building and change of use from a care home to 31 self-contained flats has been lodged.

The YMCA Black Country Group is proposing to renovate the building, in Hamstead Road, to create flats to attract young professionals.

Steve Clay, chief executive of YMCA Black Country Group said: "There is tremendous need for different types of accommodation in the borough. We have identified this building as ideal for young professionals who are starting out in their working lives, and where they can play an active part in the local community.

"Ward councillors have also asked us to allow for older single people who may be down-sizing from council property."

The exterior will be largely unchanged.

The scheme is supported by Sandwell Council and the Department for Communities and Local Government, and is expected to cost more than £1m and take six months to be completed. If approved, the development will include an onsite warden and a community-based mentor scheme.

Thousands gather to honour fallen heroes

THOUSANDS of people gathered together across the region to remember and pay their respects to the country's war dead.

Events to mark the Royal British Legion's Remembrance Day were held across the Black Country and Staffordshire.

Sandwell Council leader Darren Cooper and Mayor Keith Davies joined veterans, dignitaries and youngsters in Smethwick for a service outside the council house.

A parade made its way from the Royal British Legion club in Londonderry Lane to the memorial in the town's high street.

More than 200 people listened to the service by the Rev David Gould of Holy Trinity Church and joined in renditions of The Lord is My Shepherd and God Save the Queen.

Smethwick Royal British Legion branch president Ian Jones, who was one of the standard bearers and served in the Royal Corps of Transport in the late 1970s, said: "It is very important to carry on with events like this so people do not forget.

Young

"We have got young people still going to war now so this is for them as well."

Sandwell's deputy mayor Councillor Vic Silvester attended the service at Dartmouth Park in West Bromwich, while other events were held at Oldbury Civic Square, Powke Lane Cemetery in Rowley Regis and Victoria Park in Tipton. Young firefighters made a guard of honour at the service at Wednesbury Memorial Gardens in Walsall Street, and the town's crews laid a wreath to remember firefighters who died in 9/11.

In Cannock on Sunday, a parade led by the Salvation Army band marched in town centre and ended at the war memorial. Ex-servicemen, members of St John Ambulance, students from South Staffordshire College, Guides, Cubs and Brownies all took part.

A service was led by Rev Peter Hart while poppy wreaths were laid at the foot of the cenotaph, standards were raised and the band played the Last Post and Reveille.

In Walsall, the town's mayor Councillor Dennis Anson led a civic procession, and events were also held in Wolverhampton and Dudley.

● To view our picture gallery visit www.expressandstar.com

Part of the crowd gathered at the Remembrance Day service outside Smethwick Council House

Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Keith Davies, second left, and Rev David Gould from Holy Trinity Church, Smethwick

Cornet player Ben Lane of West Bromwich, at the Smethwick Remembrance Day event

The sound of drums heard on the streets of Wednesbury during Sunday's parade

Primary told by Ofsted to improve

A PRIMARY school in Cradley Heath requires improvement, according to its latest Ofsted inspection.

Government inspectors have rated Temple Meadow Primary School's overall effectiveness as requiring improvement, following the inspection of the site in Wrights Lane, Cradley Heath, on October 11 and 12.

The report states that the pace of learning in maths and reading lessons is not fast enough to ensure that pupils always make good progress.

And it adds that teachers do not take enough account of pupils with special educational needs when planning lessons and deploying teaching assistants.

However, it adds that strong leadership from the headteacher and deputy headteacher are bringing about "important and sustained improvements" and pupils have good attitudes to learning and feel safe in school.

The Ofsted report adds that pupils make good progress in writing "because they are inspired by the new topics and have many opportunities to write in different subjects".

Police in hunt for flasher

A JOGGER indecently exposed himself to a group of women and children in Walsall. Police are hunting the man following the incident in West Bromwich Road, Delves.

He was jogging in front of the group of two women and five children when he turned around and exposed himself.

He was 6ft tall, in his late 20s or early 30s and with a thin build. He was wearing a dark blue or black top and shorts, white football socks, dark trainers and a dark baseball cap.

The incident happened at around 7.15pm on October 21, and officers are investigating and have stepped up patrols. Pc Jay Bradburn, said: "This was an isolated offence."

Anyone with information can call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Private firm to help at council

A PRIVATE firm has been awarded £1.15 million to help run children's services at Sandwell Council.

The authority's plans to plough money into improving the service have been drawn up because outgoing director Barbara Peacock, who pulled the department up to an adequate Ofsted rating, left last month.

The borough's cabinet named iMPOWER as its preferred bidder for the partnership contract over 30 months.

The firm and its HR partner Penna will work alongside service users, frontline staff and managers. The contract includes an interim director of children's services – Simon White – currently of Suffolk County Council.

Sandwell's cabinet member for children and families Councillor Bob Badham said: "iMPOWER was an outstanding candidate – their approach is supportive and co-operative, delivering innovative improvements. This contract is unique as far as we know – bringing in a partner as part of the department."

Max Wide, director of iMPOWER, said: "Sandwell has made great strides in improving children's services and our approach will be to build on what it has achieved."

MP calls for action on homes

WARLEY MP John Spellar is calling on the Government to back a Labour plan to build thousands of new affordable homes.

Labour says the Government should use the £3 billion expected to be raised from the auction of the 4G mobile phone spectrum to fund the building of 100,000 affordable homes including 7,123 in the West Midlands.

Mr Spellar said: "With our economy flat-lining over the last year and unemployment in the West Midlands too high, we need action to kick-start the economy.

"Around 7,123 affordable homes – to buy and to rent – could be built in the West Midlands. The National Housing Federation says this could create up to 10,800 jobs."

Plans submitted for £9m health centre

An artist's impression of the health centre

DETAILED plans for a £9 million new health centre in Wednesbury have been submitted to Sandwell Council.

The long-awaited scheme in High Bullen will provide new facilities for users of two GP surgeries, Malling Health and The Spires Health Centre. The project won outline planning approval in April this year and will be located next to the leisure centre.

Planning documents state: "The proposed development will provide an integrated design, joining healthcare with wellness to bring new life to the Wednesbury leisure centre site. An overall aim is to create a campus feel with the existing leisure centre and the new health centre that will be accessible to the whole community."

The documents state that since outline planning permission was granted, design company One Creative Environments has taken over as the design team and the proposed scheme has been redesigned.

The building will front on to Dudley Street and it will keep the existing vehicle access off Dudley Street.

A new public plaza has been created as a gateway to the development and on-site parking will be shared between the leisure and health centres.

The site will have security in the form of CCTV cameras.

The planning documents add: "A considerable amount of consultation has taken place prior to this application being submitted.

"This has included meetings, workshops and presentations with a variety of stakeholders to ensure that the development will be well received and supported."

Huge haul of illegal booze and cigs seized in swoops

MORE than 40,000 smuggled cigarettes, 20kgs of tobacco and 110 litres of booze – worth more than £11,000 in lost revenue – were seized in one week during a crime crackdown in Sandwell.

Customs and trading standards officers seized the biggest haul, of 34,000 cigarettes and 12 kilograms of hand-rolled tobacco, from a house in West Bromwich.

This followed on from another operation the previous week at a shop in West Bromwich in which cigarettes and tobacco confiscated.

The raids were part of the third week of the Safer 6 campaign which is operating in the borough.

Other suspected smuggled items, including 6,200 cigarettes, 8kgs of tobacco and 110 litres of spirits, were also taken from six shops in the Smethwick area. Investigations following both operations are ongoing.

Inspections

Meanwhile, offenders doing Community Payback put in 588 hours and cleared eight tons of waste from areas including canal towpaths, the Oxford Street green space in Wednesbury, Thorn Close, Wednesbury, and Richmond Street pathway, Harvills Hawthorn.

Firefighters also carried out inspections at 11 shops selling fireworks.

A total of 12 people were also arrested following police patrols which saw drugs seized nine times, including a cannabis raid at a home in Carisbrooke Road, Friar Park, which led to three of the arrests.

During a road safety operation in Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury, they also checked 30 vehicles. Residents in Wednesbury were also visited by Sandwell Homes anti-social behaviour officers and police.

Facelift for Greggs shop

BAKERS Greggs in Cradley Heath is in line for a facelift after planning chiefs gave it the go-ahead .

Planning officers at Sandwell Council gave the nod to a new shopfront and roller shutters and projecting sign to hang over the shop in Halesowen Road. Officers thought signage would not affect traffic.

Stars light up the crowds at switch-on

Boyband Lawson, TV presenters Sam and Mark, singer Tyler James and BGT's Mr Zip switch on Merry Hill's Christmas lights

HUNDREDS of people braved the rain to see the Christmas lights switched on by celebrities at the Merry Hill shopping centre.

The crowd was treated to live performances from boyband Lawson and Tyler James, who finished runner-up on TV show The Voice UK as well as Britain's Got Talent star Mr Zip with a singalong of 'Where me keys, Where me phone'.

Hosts Sam Nixon and Black Country lad Mark Rhodes led proceedings as the stars pushed a plunger on stage to turn on the lights in front of a packed outdoor arena on the site's car park.

Tyler, who was friends with Amy Winehouse and is preparing for a UK tour, said he "loved" performing for fans. He proved popular with the audience as he sang some of his favourites including A Single Tear.

Performed

And Lawson were greeted by loud screams from scores of teenage girls as they performed a set including their new single Standing in the Dark.

The entertainment started at 4pm and, despite some heavy downpours, the crowds remained until the lights were switched on later in the evening.

Mandy Manders, of Cradley Heath, with the Swing Grill at the event

NEWS in brief

Woman dies in fall from balcony

A WOMAN has died after plunging 60ft from a balcony at the Bullring shopping centre in the centre of Birmingham.

Shoppers watched in horror as the unnamed woman, believed to be in her 40s, fell from an elevated area.

The drama happened at inside the Bullring at around 1.30pm on Tuesday. The woman later died in hospital.

The East Mall at the shopping centre was closed for part of the afternoon while police investigated.

Drain complaints still pouring in

COMPLAINTS are still being made about a blocked drain causing flooding in a garage during heavy rain.

Garry Whitehouse, of Crabtree Close, reported the drain to Sandwell Council in June but no debris has been removed.

He said: "It's now been 20 weeks – as far as the local authority are concerned it's no longer a problem." "

Police probe spate of thefts

POLICE patrols have been stepped up following a spate of thefts from cars around Bloxwich High Street.

Owners are being urged to make sure vehicles are left secure when parking.

Officers from the neighbourhood team say there was an increase in thefts during October.

They are encouraging drivers to make sure cars are locked and windows secure.

Spray hope for diabetes victims

A NASAL spray has been developed that could mean an end to injections for sufferers of Type 1 diabetes.

The spray, successfully tested on rats, delivers insulin to the bloodstream. Tests showed that one squirt reduced blood sugar levels in rats for 24 hours. It took nine hours for their blood sugar levels to return to original values.

Road is closing

LINDEN Road, Smethwick will be closed for resurfacing work on Sunday. It will be closed at its junction with Bearwood Road. Traffic will be diverted along Linden Road, Merrivale Road, and Talbot Road.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

REJOICE. The new Archbishop of Canterbury is in favour of female bishops and against gay marriage. He could Welby the best thing to happen to the Church for ages.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

A NUMBER of you have asked whether the infection threatening our ash trees, will become known as the Welsh disease. Die Back.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

SO it's official. The Government is so committed to the idea of Police Commissioners that they don't really care whether you vote or not on November 15. Home Secretary Theresa May says there is no question of the elections being declared void no matter how few people vote. Yet I detect no enthusiasm at all to elect candidates we have never heard of into £100,000-a-year jobs that probably don't need doing on the strength of policies that have not been properly explained, using an electoral process which was roundly rejected in last year's AV referendum.

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SOME readers tell me they will be spoiling their ballot papers. One promises to vote for "utter waste of money".

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

"THEY were brown and they looked nice." The reason some idiots give for eating wild fungi without having a clue what they are, as related on Radio 4 by TV chef Valentine Warner.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

ONE of life's little milestones came around, the renewal of my passport. One thing has changed in 10 years; the instructions for the photograph are now very stern. There must be no smiling, no reflective spectacles, no headgear and the head must be kept bolt upright. This is a bit of a blow to those of us who look particularly dashing smiling whimsically over the top of our reading glasses from beneath the brim of a mole-skin fedora. The passport snaps turned out as grim as I expected but at least I appear to be alive, unlike in my 2002 passport photo which looks like a death mask. In years to come archaeologists will be puzzled by the curious discovery that, although foreign holidays were supposed to be happy events, the only people who went on them looked really miserable.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

ANNOUNCING a project to count the number of red-haired folk in Scotland, a BBC report informs us: "For a child to have red hair, both parents must be carriers." For heavens sake, it's a colouring, not a disease.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

FOUR more years. As President Obama looks ahead to his new term, does he pause to reflect on the bright, well-educated, sophisticated population of 315 million Americans he leads? A friend is just back from a holiday in the tropics which included one day swimming with the dolphins. An American lady announced loudly: "I read the Bible and the Bible tells me that after I die I will spend all my days swimming with dolphins, and that is why this is so important to me." And she's got the vote. God Bless America.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

IF you, the readers of this column, are surprised by lines such as "a fan club" and "you're a big girl's blouse" in Anachronism Abbey (ITV), why on earth do experienced actors not rebel? Before every episode of Downton the cast read through the script, sitting around a table. Surely at that stage these modern phrases must jar terribly. Does no-one have the nerve to point out to Julian Fellowes that his scripts are less than perfect?

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

ANYWAY, for all its curious turns of phrase, Downton has been the best thing on telly for years. It was one of those series you just wanted to go on and on. I must assume that Mr Bates will finally admit his guilt as a murderer in the Christmas edition (or Winterval Holiday Special as Fellowes may call it).

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Three jailed for Christmas Day robbery

THREE men who took part in a Christmas Day robbery of family presents have been sentenced to a total of more than 13 years in prison.

Two young children were terrified by the ordeal, in which a man was pushed into a Christmas tree and assaulted with a bottle.

After a day of drinking and taking drugs Kieron Hale, Joel Parker and Carl Little went to the home of Hale's ex-partner Lisa Leighton in Meadow Walk, Cradley Heath, in the early hours of Christmas Day last year.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how 30-year-old Hale, now of no fixed address but previously of Windmill Hill, Halesowen, had split up with Miss Leighton a few weeks earlier.

Prosecutor David Iles said Leighton's then partner and former friend of Hale, Bryan Sullivan, answered the door and was assaulted.

Miss Leighton and her two girls aged 13 and 15 were upstairs.

Escape

Miss Leighton was struck by Parker before police turned up to apprehend him and Hale as they tried to escape with the presents. Little had already fled.

Parker, aged 25 and of Chillington Walk, Rowley Regis, admitted his role in the robbery, as did Hale.

Twenty-two-year-old Little, of Windmill Hill, Halesowen, denied the charge but a jury convicted him after a trial last month.

Hales and Parker were given four years and eight months, with Parker receiving an extra eight months for a separate burglary in Stourbridge in 2011.

Little was sentenced to four years.

The doctor will see you now – via video

A REVOLUTIONARY system to provide virtual television visits for people needing care has been installed in a GP's surgery and a residential home.

Sandwell Council's adult social care department and the borough's Primary Care Trust combined earlier this year to become the first borough in the country to pilot the system. The scheme, called STAY – Sandwell Telecare Assisting You – involves a two-way link through people's TVs or computers, and 40 systems have been installed.

One system has been installed at Regis Medical Centre, and Tendercare Ltd, formally known as George Leonard rest home, both in Rowley Regis.

When a resident of the home needs a consultation, rather than arranging for a GP to visit the Oldbury Road home, the consultation can now take place via a video link.

People can see a GP sooner. Previously, an appointment would have had to be made outside normal surgery hours.

Beneficial

Dr. David Hamilton from Your Health Partnership at Regis Medical Centre said: "It is early days of using the system but we feel it will prove beneficial in managing some of our patients."

Christine Stanton, manager of Tendercare Ltd, added: "The system seems to be working well.

"Some service users like the system, where others are unsure and like the GP to visit in person.

A few outside agencies like the community matron and paramedics think the system is helpful for having a second opinion whether a person should be admitted in to hospital."

Councillor Dr. Ann Jaron, said: "The introduction of the 4G network will allow further developments to complement existing personal care services."

Decision to delay underpass defended

A DECISION to postpone the completion of the A41 underpass in West Bromwich has been justified by Sandwell Council. Work on the scheme began in June 2010 and was officially completed on Monday.

But the project was originally scheduled to be completed by late 2011.

Cabinet member for neighbourhood services Councillor Ian Jones said: "Logistically this was a massive scheme, and the work programme could have been kept on the original target had we taken the decision to close the dual carriageway for the underpass to be built.

"But that would have caused massive traffic problems setting up long diversions as between 70,000 and 110,000 vehicles use the A41 daily. We took the decision to carry out this massive project and at the same time keep traffic flowing.

"Obviously that meant the work slowing but it avoided massive traffic hold-ups in nearby locations had the dual carriageway been closed."

Shop appeals for donations

Volunteers Kim Field, Sharon Truss and assistant manager Mandy Bassett

A PLEA for donations of unwanted items has been made by staff at a charity shop that supports people in Sandwell and Walsall.

Staff at the YMCA shop, in Digbeth, Walsall, say they are running low on stock and are appealing for donations. Assistant manager Amanda Bassett said: "We are struggling for stock. I know it's difficult at this time of year but we would appreciate any donations. We take everything – beds, settees, records, videos, bric-a-brac, clothes."

Call 01922 629562 for more information and details of how to help.

Beauty spot gets £20,000 funding

A GRANT worth tens of thousands of pounds has been secured to help improve a Black Country beauty spot.

The Friends of Thimblemill Brook have been awarded the £20,000 cash boost to spruce up Thimblemill Brook, which runs through parts of Smethwick and Oldbury.

The money has come from a donation from the Ibstock Cory Trust. Cash will be spent on carrying out a number of activities which will help to improve the appearance of the area and its wildlife.

Moira Black, treasurer of the group, said: "Many people complain that they can't actually see the brook because the wooded banks are too dense.

"We'll be carrying out selective thinning in a number of areas, to improve the quality of the woodland, and to help people get better access to the brook."

The Friends of Thimblemill Brook are in the process of applying for further funding. They hope to receive £50,000 from the Community Spaces Big Lottery Fund. Group members are due to find out whether they have been awarded the grant next year. To find out more email julie_mckirdy@sandwell.gov.uk

Opinions on buses wanted

RESIDENTS who use bus services in Great Barr and north Birmingham are being urged to make their voices heard in a major review of services.

Centro, the region's transport authority, is working with Birmingham City Council, Sandwell Council, Walsall Council and bus operators to scrutinise the network and see what can be done to improve services.

The review is being led by Centro, and it is aimed to provide routes that better serve modern travel patterns while also bringing improved buses, waiting facilities and information.

A series of exhibitions will be held. Visit www.networkwestmidlands.com/busreview to find out more.

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Hospital invests in heart machine

SANDWELL Hospital has invested £2.3 million in a machine to help identify early onset of coronary heart disease and save lives.

The CT scanner means patients at the West Bromwich hospital will no longer have to have invasive surgery for a heart testas a scan can be done in seconds.

Sandwell has the highest level of coronary heart disease in the West Midlands. Many patients have a test called a coronary angiogram to find out if they have heart disease.

Now a new test doing the same type of angiogram but without the need to get to the heart has been introduced. Using the new CT scanner, the test can be done in less than 10 seconds without the need to put a tube into the heart.

The scanner can identify early disease not seen on the traditional angiogram and in three out of four patients, an invasive angiogram may no longer be required.

Dr Derek Connolly, consultant cardiologist said: "This massive leap in technology will save many lives by identifying patients with heart disease early and allowing us to treat them and avoid heart attacks."

The project aims at a safer diagnostic test for patients experiencing chest pain.

Stranded fans get team help

FORMER Albion star Derek McInnes acted to help 17 Bristol City fans who returned to their mini-bus to find tyres slashed.

McInnes, who is Bristol City manager, saw the group stranded after his team lost 2-0 to Birmingham City at St Andrew's.

The Scotsman and his players clubbed together to hand over £300 to help the fans return to Bristol.

McInnes said: "We wanted to help out. It looked like they would have a three-hour wait for roadside recovery. Given the fact there were 17 of them, we couldn't get them on the team bus, so everyone in the squad got together to help out."

The supporters later tweeted kitman Scott Murray to thank the players and tell them they had arrived home safely.

Area is among UK's worst for failing pubs

SOME parts of the Black Country including Tipton, have been named as some of the worst in the country for the number of pub closures this year, according to new figures.

Tipton, Wolverhampton and Brierley Hill have been among the hardest hit nationally.

In Wolverhampton alone, 30 pubs have called time in the past four years. The Campaign For Real Ale says that in 2009 seven pubs in Wolverhampton closed down, five in 2010 and nine in 2011.

So far this year there have already been 13 closures in and around the city.

Five closures have been reported so far in Brierley Hill this year and four recorded in Tipton, including the Royal Oak.

In Wolverhampton, The Mitre has been closed along with the former Varsity pub in the city centre.

Pub preservation officer for the Wolverhampton branch of Camra, Jim Laws, said: "There are two things, the first one is the tax on beer, which means it is more expensive to drink in pubs than to buy a drink at the supermarket.

"The other main problem is that a lot of the pubs are run by companies and they have to buy their beer from them, it is more expensive than buying it direct, which impacts on the customer."

Nationally, Camra says 18 pubs are closing every week, a figure which has increased from 12 a week in the past year.

Quality

However, some pubs in the city are still doing well, including the popular Great Western in Corn Hill.

Licensee and proprietor Jamie Atkins said: "In the future you are not going to see anywhere near the number of pubs that you used to. But well-run, quality operations that offer value for money and service, will continue."

But it is not all gloom for the region's pub trade.

A new Hungry Horse pub is being created as part of a wider multi-million pound transformation of the landmark Goodyear site off Stafford Road.

Another landmark pub in Wolverhampton has also just been given a £160,000 facelift before being re-opened as a sports bar. The Globe, formerly the Alexandra, has been closed for six weeks.

Twist of fate was the key to musical life for Barry

AN EAR infection and a band of musicians who entertained cinema audiences put Barry Smith on the road to a lifetime of music.

His talent has taken him round the world, and he has played with some of the biggest names in showbiz.

But it all started 60 years ago – the days when cinema audiences had a break half way through the programme and were often entertained by a band as they enjoyed an ice cream.

Les Davaldi and his junior accordian band played at the Odeon cinema in Blackheath and Barry's father Bill had the idea that accordian lessons would be just the thing for his 12-year-old.

Although he could barely afford it, Bill agreed to pay half-a-crown a week for his son to learn the accordian.

Barry explains: "I became ill at Christmas with a bad ear infection and totally missed out on the celebrations. My gran Sarah said they should buy me an accordion and they took me to Yardleys in Snow Hill, Birmingham, and bought me a small 24-base accordion for £8."

Two months later his father approached Les Davaldi at the cinema.

Competition

"My dad got me lessons for half-a-crown a week – in those days my dad was only earning £7 a week working at Chances Glassworks," says Barry, who has a daughter, Heidi, and son, Marcus as well as four grandchildren.

"I started lessons in the March and by August I was put in for my first competition and I came second."

Within five years, Barry, a pupil at Holt Road Primary and Hill and Cakemore Secondary Modern, was playing concerts around the country, sharing the stage with Max Bygraves, Mike and Bernie Winters and comedian Frankie Poole.

He went on to be part of the Barry Schmidt Bavarian Band, and for the last 20 years, has been a member of the Master Butchers' Band.

His talent has taken him round the globe, and he has performed for celebrities including Bill Gates and Richard Branson.

Barry, who grew up in Blackheath and has lived in Rowley Regis since he married Christine, now 68, has a collection of 50 accordians. In later life, Barry, now 70, ran his own building business but still found the time to entertain audiences around the UK, appearing alongside Norman Wisdom, Frankie Howerd, Beryl Reed and Ted Rogers. He also played at a party at the home of Lord Cavendish and at the 100th anniversary of the Royal Welsh Show.

"During the Royal Welsh Show, the Royal Family showed up and on the final day the Queen arrived," said Barry. But he added he's just as happy playing at home.

"One of my favourite audiences to play for is my grandchildren and even though I'm 70 I have no plans to retire – I will play for as long as my hands let me," he said.

Musician Barry Smith with his accordions. He has a collection of 50

Star quality – Barry aged around 14

Teenager Barry is seated, far right, ready to play in Mary Stevens Park

NEWS in brief

Shop online and boost a charitiy

SHOPPERS in Sandwell are being urged to log on to the internet to raise funds for a charity for carers.

Cares, in Smethwick, has signed up with easyfundraising, a website which, whenever it is used by shoppers, donates a percentage of the price of goods to charity.

The website has access to well-known retailers, and donations can be as much as 15 per cent of the purchase price. Geoff Foster, of Cares, said: "We're not asking people to donate, just to shop online as they normally would."

Generosity of West Midlanders

THE West Midlands, including Sandwell, has been named the sixth most generous area of the UK for donating to charity.

Charity ActionAid assigned the ratings based on the number of children in poor countries who were sponsored by people in each UK area.

The West Midlands sponsored 1,702 children in poverty in Africa, Asia and the Americas in 2012. People in the West Midlands raise more than £324,000 every year for ActionAid.

Motorists warned of work on road

DIVERSIONS will be in place while road resurfacing work is carried out on a West Bromwich dual carriageway.

The work in All Saints Way was starting today (Thursday) and will last until Tuesday. Hargate Lane will be closed at its junction with All Saints Way. A diversion will be in place during the work.

Bridal firm in award success

A WEDNESBURY bridal business has celebrated its first year by scooping the best entry at a event for Macmillan Cancer Support.

SL Bridal Solutions took top prize during the Moth Ball at the Belfry Golf Club, Sutton Coldfield, where women wear their wedding dresses again.

Solicitors help

A FIRM of solicitors in West Bromwich will hold a Christmas-themed charity day in support of dementia charity BUDS on November 30.

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NEWS

Appeal bid of phoney expert is thrown out

A FAKE immigration expert who cheated thousands of pounds from desperate immigrant families has failed in an Appeal Court bid to clear his name.

by Lisa Wright

Shacky Herbert Mukwakwami, aged 51, of Rayford Drive, West Bromwich, passed himself off as somebody qualified to plead cases to the Home Office, to take advantage of those desperate to stay in the UK.

He charged thousands of pounds for unqualified advice.

Mukwakwami admitted two counts of providing immigration advice while not qualified to do so at Wolverhampton Crown Court in July last year.

Admitted

He was later sentenced to a 12-month jail term, suspended for two years.

He was also ordered to do 150 hours of unpaid work and pay £8,575 in compensation and costs.

Despite having previously admitted his guilt, Mukwakwami asked Lord Justice Moore-Bick, Mr Justice Collins and Judge Nicholas Cooke QC, sitting at London's Criminal Appeal Court, for permission to appeal against his convictions.

At the hearing last week he said he had been "compelled to plead guilty" by his lawyers and that "his mind did not go with his pleadings."

Mr Justice Collins, said: "He says that lies have been told about him by virtually everyone who has ever said anything about him."

The judge concluded: "There was no question of forcing him to plead guilty. The evidence against him was very strong indeed.

"He had charged substantial sums for giving advice that he was not entitled to give."

Team launches food bank

Wednesbury councillors Olwen Jones, Pam Hughes, Elaine Costigan and Peter Hughes with John Steventon launch the food bank in Walsall Street

A FOOD bank has been officially launched in Wednesbury to help struggling families.

Breaking Bread has been officially opened in Walsall Street where vacant shop units have been transformed to create the new premises.

The shop units at 93 and 94 Walsall Street were most recently used as Wednesbury Property Shop by Sandwell Homes, but have been vacant since January 2011.

Sandwell Council offered the premises to a community interest service called The Priory Family Centre to run the food bank, for a peppercorn rent.

The scheme will also offer retail work experience to unemployed people.

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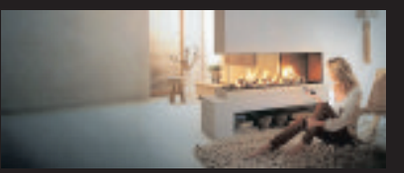

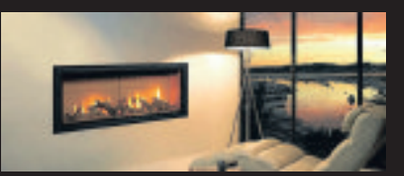

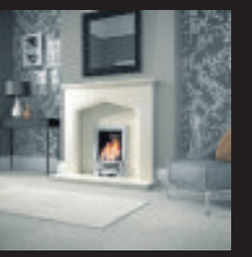

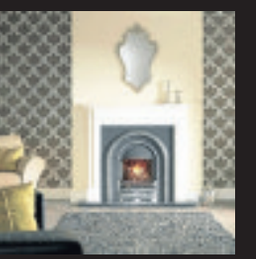

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NEWS

Website to help tackle problems with alcohol

SANDWELL will mark next week's national Alcohol Awareness Week by launching a support website and holding a roadshow event for people who want to get advice.

The website – www.sdap.co.uk – for Sandwell Drug and Alcohol Partnership (SDAP) will provide a single point where people can get information and support on alcohol and drug problems.

It will be launched next Wednesday in Queen's Square Shopping Centre, West Bromwich.

Everyone is welcome between 9.30am and 5pm to discuss confidentially with professionals any problem they, or someone they know, have with alcohol.

Campaign

Members of the SDAP will be on hand to give advice. They will include Sandwell Drug and Alcohol Action Team, adult and young people's alcohol services, and an alcohol recovery support group.

The week falls within Sandwell's Safer 6 campaign, which involves many local organisations working on crime prevention.

Councillor Paul Moore, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for health and commissioning, said: "With one in four A&E admissions related to alcohol, it's vital that people who are drinking too much know how to get advice and support. Their families and friends also need to know how to get help.

"That's why I am pleased to see Sandwell marking national Alcohol Awareness Week by launching this new website and holding a public information event."

Rita's art show to boost charity

Disabled artist Rita Roberts with her paintings, and carer Millicent St Archer

WAR paintings went on display at Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery to raise funds for the charity Help For Heroes.

The five paintings by local disabled artist Rita Roberts depict war scenes, including St Paul's Cathedral during the blitz, soldiers leaving a helicopter in Afghanistan and First World War soldiers in the trenches – all with poppies in them.

The paintings by Mrs Roberts who has multiple sclerosis have been made into greeting and post cards, which are on sale in the museum.

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Christmas lights celebrations

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Saturday 24th November	12pm to 6pm	Wednesbury town centre
Saturday 24th November	5pm to 8pm	Cradley Heath High Street
Thursday 29th November	5pm to 8pm	Oldbury town square
Saturday 1st December	12pm to 6pm	Oldbury town square

This is just a selection of the Christmas lights celebrations happening in Sandwell. For more information, see www.sandwell.gov.uk/lights

Smart Network, Smarter Choices is a multi-million pound programme designed to help tackle congestion, reduce carbon emissions and kick start the regional economy. The project involves carrying out a wide range of sustainable travel (cycling, walking, public transport) schemes along ten key corridors (routes) in the West Midlands.

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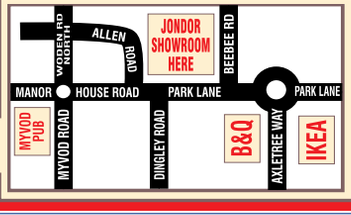

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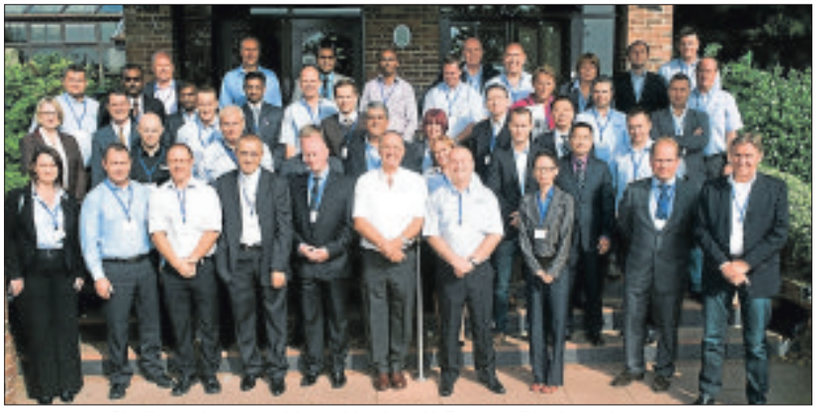
NEWS

International conference hears firm's vision



Distributors from around the world gather with Tentec staff for the conference event

MORE than 30 delegates from 25 countries attended the first Worldwide Distributors Conference run by West Bromwich bolt tightening specialists, Tentec.

The conference provided the opportunity for Tentec to present its company vision for the future, unveil plans for new bolt tightening products and gave all delegates the opportunity to exchange views and ideas on improving sales and marketing.

The three-day conference at Stratford Manor Hotel included a tour around Tentec's manufacturing and production facilities at West Bromwich, as well the chance to talk to the in-house design engineers.

"This conference marks an important stage in Tentec's development," said managing director Mike Gethings. "We have ambitious growth plans for the coming years."

Parade to cause delays

DRIVERS are being warned of traffic delays at the weekend when a parade is held in Sandwell.

The parade, on Sunday, is to commemorate the Guru Nanak Dev Ji, and is expected to take around three and a half hours.

It will start in West Bromwich and end in Smethwick.

Some roads will be closed temporarily to traffic, except for emergency vehicles. The closures will take place on a rolling programme.

The parade will start outside the Guru Har Rai Gurdwarara in George Street, West Bromwich from 7am and is expected to set off at 10.30am.

It is anticipated to take about three and a half hours to complete and will end outside the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in High Street, Smethwick at approximately 2pm.

The roads affected will be **West Bromwich**: George Street; High Street; West Bromwich Ringway; Bull Street; Reform Street; Congregation Way; Cronehills Linkway; Bratt Street; Lombard Street; Lodge Road; Edward Street; Victoria Street; Price Street gyratory; Moor Street.

Oldbury: Bromford Road; Oldbury Ringway; Church Street; Halesowen Street; Birmingham Street; Manchester Street; Birmingham Road; Popes Lane; Rood End Road; Cemetery Road.

Smethwick: St Paul's Road; Fenton Street; High Street.

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NEWS

Jobs at risk as under-fire helpline is restructured

TWENTY-ONE people have been placed at risk of redundancy under plans to overhaul a helpline in Sandwell.

The ASSIST service which helps adult social care users, and processes disabled people's Blue Badge applications, is being restructured.

The service which has a helpline and also answers queries via email, fax and post, suffered damage to its reputation last year when it was found that callers were being kept waiting too long on the phone.

That damage was cited as one reason for the sweeping changes to the service.

Staff will be put at risk because the service is being completely remodelled, and current roles will be wiped out.

Slicker

And although councillors say there are sufficient posts within the new structure for no-one to actually lose their jobs, they have earmarked January 7 next year for any employee who is not redeployed.

It is not yet known how much money the moves will save.

Councillor Dr Ann Jaron, the borough's adult social care chief, said: "The restructure was devised to make the whole process slicker. No-one should be made redundant as there are sufficient posts in the new structure to cater for the current staff."

The restructure will include axing 8.51 full-time equivalent posts of customer service advisers, and creating seven full-time equivalent contact centre support officers on a lower pay grade.

Hampers are festive treat

Pat Moore, senior receptionist at the country park, with Christmas hampers

IT may only be November but staff at a beauty spot are already getting into the festive spirit.

Christmas hampers are being sold in the gift shop to raise money for the upkeep of Sandwell Valley Country Park and Santa Claus is due to spend his first weekend at the park's grotto on November 24 and 25. Staff are also gearing up for a Christmas craft fair featuring a brass band and stalls on December 15 and 16.

More than 100 Christmas hampers were sold last year and senior receptionist Pat Moore said they had brought them back by popular demand.

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MEMORY LANE

The first Black Country council housing (W'ton Archives) which is now the site of the Evans car showroom in Wolverhampton (seen above)

Built before 1920 – Stream Park, Kingswinford (Picture: M Whitehouse)

Interwar housing at Rough Hay, Darlaston

Cottages on Kates Hill, Dudley

History is preserved in these 'ordinary' streets

by Paul Quigley
Landscape Archaeologist
The distinctly Black Country network

WANDERING around the Black Country (as I do) it's all too easy to miss the history preserved in apparently ordinary streets.

One story not often told, but particularly important to the area is the history of council housing.

Every third home in the Black Country was built by a local authority and for the first three quarters of the 20th century the figure was nearer a half. So, hundreds of thousands of family histories are tied up with this particular kind of architecture.

Despite its far-reaching implications, the first chapter in the story of council housing in the Black Country hasn't left us much of a visible legacy. In fact its beginnings are now only archaeology, inauspiciously buried under an unmarked car park in Wolverhampton.

Soon after the first council house was built in London in the late 19th century, Wolverhampton Borough commissioned a terrace of cottage tenements. Between 1902 and the First World War they stood alone as the only municipal housing in the Black Country. Demolished in the 1980s, the site on the Birmingham Road is now a car dealer's forecourt.

Despite this loss, most council houses built in the Black Country are still around today (as opposed to council flats, which have not lasted so well). So we can put together a story of the rest of the 20th century in surviving buildings.

Different

The candidates for the oldest standing council houses in the Black Country all originate in the plans for the end of the First World War, the start of widespread house-building by municipalities.

Complicating the picture in the Black Country were the literally dozens of councils covering the area. Each had a slightly different approach and probably used different architects.

Examples built before 1920 include the houses on Kate's Hill, Dudley and on Stream Park, Kingswinford.

The experience of house building in the inter-war years also differed between Black Country councils: those on the coalfield like Bilston, Darlaston and Tipton struggled to find suitable land and often had to level pit mounds and the topping of shafts before they could plan new estates.

Even then they had to avoid canals and railways criss-crossing the area leading to estates being severed from older settlements, such as the so-called 'Lost City' in Tipton. Houses built next to the canal at Rough Hay, Darlaston were typical of those built on former colliery land in the 1920s.

By contrast, in the days before the green belt, towns around the edge of the 'Black Country proper' were able to plan larger estates expanding over farmland. Bristnall near Smethwick and the kilometre-long Low Hill estate near Wolverhampton are legacies of this approach.

Part two of the spotlight on council homes will be in a future edition.

● You can get involved in the investigation of the history of local council housing. Go to http://distinctlyblackcountry.org.uk/blockcapital

A plan of Low Hill from 1928 (Picture: W'ton Archives)

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NEWS

Work steaming ahead at £122m incinerator

Residents gather for a special tour around the new incinerator in Four Ashes in Wolverhampton

WORK on a £122 million incinerator where Sandwell rubbish will be burned, is ploughing forward.

The structure for the development, which will generate power for around 32,000 homes, can now be seen at the Four Ashes Industrial Park, where it is based just off the A449 Stafford Road in South Staffordshire.

Work on the development started in June 2011 and is set to be finished by December next year.

This weekend members of the public had a rare glimpse behind the scenes at the site as part of the construction industry's first Open Doors weekend.

Once it is up and running, rubbish that can't be recycled from Sandwell, Worcestershire, Walsall and Staffordshire will be taken there to be burnt in a process that produces electricity.

Working

Work on the office block is developing well and contractors revealed that there will be a giant bunker where the rubbish will be brought.

One completed the building will also have one of the largest grass roofs in the country. Up to 300 people, most of them local, will be working on the construction and the development will create 40 jobs.

Paul Gouland, marketing director at Clugston Construction which is working on the project said: "This major project is having significant benefit to the local economy during construction with at least 87 per cent of the workforce and a large proportion of the supply chain having been sourced locally."

At the open weekend was 67-year-old Peter Sanders from Coven. He said: "I have very much enjoyed seeing the site come together. They have been very open."

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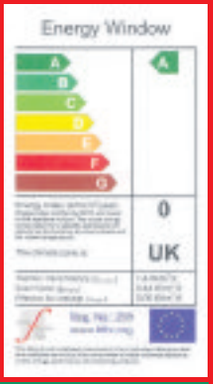

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LETTERS

Election is a pointless exercise

ALL of the candidates for the Police and Crime Commissioner position have expressed support for an inquiry into the Birmingham pub bombings of 1974.

Why? The only ones to really gain from it will be the lawyers – just as they did in Londonderry.

Perhaps this lot are hoping for a lucrative cushy number on the inquiry board if they fail to get the top job of Police and Crime Commissioner.

In the case of any Birmingham inquiry a posse of has-been politicians will come to the conclusion that the police made mistakes and that no-one is certain as to whether or not the six were guilty.

That will satisfy no-one.

The only person in authority to declare the Birmingham Six "innocent" was Geoffrey Dear, sometime head of West Midlands Police. He knew no more than we did.

I always felt I had a duty to vote in elections, even when there was little to choose between candidates.

In this Police and Crime Commissioner election I won't bother.

I don't accept the need for a meddling supremo with a huge ego spending his time trying to get his face on television.

With projected voter turnout at less than 20 per cent it's looking more and more a pointless exercise.

We had a far higher turnout for our Allotments Committee elections.

Trevor Howard,
Melverton Avenue,
Wolverhampton.

Fireworks display was one of the best

I WOULD like to congratulate the organisers of the 1st Wednesbury bonfire and fireworks display, which I think included the Friends of Wednesbury Park and Sandwell MBC.

The weather was not at its best, but that didn't dampen the enjoyment of the hundreds of children who attended. By children I mean everyone, as everyone is a child at heart where fireworks are concerned.

A friend and his wife watched the display, and commented that the display was one of the best they had ever seen.

We can only hope that this has not been a one-off and that the organisers are at this moment planning next year's event.

Once again, congratulations.

Keith V Joyce,
Old Park Road,
Wednesbury.

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Sandwell Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
sandwellchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

MP is a disgrace for entering TV 'jungle'

ON a TV news report about the suspension of the MP Nadine Dorries from the Tory party after she flew to Australia for up to a month to take part in I'm A Celebrity, the reporter mentioned that she could find herself in a tank with snakes and cockroaches.

I would have thought that, as an MP, every day she has spent in the House of Commons will have prepared her perfectly for that task and a few more unpleasant ones besides!

Seriously, regardless of any feeble excuses she will give for her actions, the woman is a disgrace with little or no self respect and, more importantly, she obviously has total contempt for Parliament, the taxpayers who pay her obscene salary and her mid-Bedfordshire constituents.

The minimum punishment this woman should receive is a one month loss of pay and expenses, and her ultimate punishment should be de-selection by her local constituency party, to be sacked from the Tory party and to lose her seat.

R A Sargeant,
Corporation Road,
Dudley.

Fantastic success of town's bonfire

ON Friday night in Brunswick Park Wednesbury, just to see around 3,000 people turn out in the rain with their families was utterly fantastic.

The joy they had when those fireworks went off was a pleasure to be part of.

One lady came to us and said: "I feel we've got our community back!"

To put such a wonderful event on takes team work – the parks team, ground care, police, officers of the council, councillors, cabinet members, Adrian Goldberg from WM gave up his time, the Mayor and Mayoress Mr and Mrs Davies – so glad it was a great success!

Thank you Sandwell MBC, and yes we did save Postman Pat from the bonfire!

Cllrs Elaine Costigan and Olwen Jones,
Sandwell Council.

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NEWS

Platinum pair found love on the number 11

REGULAR meetings on the number 11 bus was just the ticket to a lifetime of love for one couple who have just celebrated their platinum wedding anniversary.

by Catherine Dalton

Bram Pritchard made a point of sitting next to his future wife Joan every time he boarded the number 11 from West Bromwich to Friar Park in 1940.

And as the pair travelled love blossomed between them. They married and having raised a family, now live in Walsall.

Mrs Pritchard recalled: "I was sitting on the bus coming back from night school and my now-husband made a point of coming and sitting by me each night.

"We got off the bus together and never really parted."

Dance

The pair, who will not reveal their ages, were married at Wednesbury Register Office on November 7, 1942.

A year later, daughter Pauline came along, followed nine years later by son Anthony.

Mr Pritchard worked at the General Electric Company in Witton, and saw service in the Navy.

For 18 years, Mr and Mrs Pritchard, who now live on the Yew Tree Estate, ran sequence dance classes at West Bromwich baths.

"We've made so many wonderful friends through dancing," said Mrs Pritchard.

She also worked at British Typewriters in West Bromwich.

The couple now have five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mrs Pritchard said: "The secret to a long marriage is to be kind to one another and to listen."

Platinum couple Bram and Joan Pritchard, celebrating

Dodgeball club is launched

A DODGEBALL club is being started in Walsall. Fundraiser Glyn Marston has been trained as a dodgeball coach and is now starting his own team.

Training sessions of the Walsall Warriors are at Willenhall CHART Centre on Mondays from 7.15pm to 9.15pm. Entry costs £3 a training session. If there is enough interest, Mr Marston hopes to establish a youth team.

Mr Marston, aged 49, said he believes Walsall Warriors is the first dodgeball club in the area.

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NEWS

Stronger canal bridge bill will be £400,000

A KEY Sandwell canal bridge will have £400,000 strengthening work done to carry heavier loads.

After the work, Brades Hall bridge which provides vital access to Tipton and Dudley town centres, will be able to handle 44 tons.

It carries Dudley Road East over the Birmingham Canal and is owned by The Canal and River Trust. After work is done it is proposed that Sandwell Council takes ownership and contribute £200,000 to the cost of the work.

A report to borough neighbourhoods boss, Councillor Ian Jones, says an assessment of load-carrying done in 1995, revealed it only had a 7.5 ton capacity.

The trust, formerly British Waterways, has since maintained what is described as a "sub-standard" bridge through an enhanced regime of inspections.

Loading

The Trust is responsible for strengthening the bridge to make it capable of carrying 24-ton vehicles.

Sandwell would be responsible for additional costs to provide for the additional loading of vehicles of up to 44 tons.

On Friday Councillor Jones will be recommended to agree to accept a contribution from the trust to secure the upgrading of the bridge.

He is also recommended to agree that money is paid to the council from the trust for future maintenance to secure the transfer of ownership of the bridge.

Councillor Ian Jones said: "If we did not do this we wouldn't be able to allow the larger lorries along the road, so these are important improvements."

School is an award-winner

Carla Newby, with pupils and parents, celebrating winning the award

PARENTS, pupils and staff at a Rowley Regis school are celebrating winning a top award.

Brickhouse Primary won a Leading Parent Partnership Award and is now being used as a national case study for the way it engages with parents.

The Dudhill Road school runs sessions where parents and children are supported together, it has workshops where children and parents can have fun and learn together, and parents are encouraged to volunteer to work in the tuck shops and on school trips.

Parent support advisor, Carla Newby said the support given to parents had helped raise pupils' attainment, encouraged parents to engage more with children at home, and enabled parents to gain qualifications.

Headteacher Paul Newby, said: "The parents and children of Brickhouse have worked very hard to achieve this award."

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CLUB NEWS

Talk on holistic therapy

HAWNE 'E' TWG

THE chairman welcomed everyone to the October meeting. Sandra and Mollie were standing in for Sheila and Sandra, who were otherwise engaged.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed, there were several matters arising.

Forthcoming trips were finalised, including to Chatsworth House and A Christmas Carol.

Sandra was asked for ideas for entertainment for the Christmas party. The committee will provide presents for each member.

The speaker for this evening was Pat Nock, from Natural Balance.

She described her work as holistic therapy, treating the whole person, and different methods she used to achieve this, from bath oils, reflexology, candles, working on emotions, also Indian head massage with oils, all of these things helped the body to look after itself.

She demonstrated Indian head massage on several of our members, one or two dropping to sleep. It was a very enjoyable and informative evening.

After tea and biscuits, raffle, and sales table, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

The next meeting is on Monday, November 19 and the theme will be silver jewellery.

No hanging around by group on project

The wall hanging made by members of Sedgley evening guild's arts and crafts group

SEDGLEY EVENING TOWNSWOMENS GUILD

THIS wall hanging was made by 25 members of the Guild's arts and craft Group, to be hung on the wall of Sedgley Community Centre where the guild's are and craft meetings are held.

At a recent open day there the group made more than £500 which will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support, an extremely worthwhile cause.

The centre is run entirely by volunteers and is of a very high standard. The craft group thought it would be a sign of their appreciation to make this hanging to enhance the main hall of the building.

The guild's next meeting will feature a talk by the RSPB. Meetings are held on the third Monday in the month at 7.15pm. Visitors and new members are welcome.

Lottery grant is awarded

WALL HEATH & KINGSWINFORD WAR MEMORIAL RESEARCH GROUP

THIS non-profit making group of volunteers has won a £13,200 Heritage Lottery Fund grant to produce a permanent record of the men from the villages who died in the two world wars.

Its planned completion is in 2014 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War. It is also intended to produce a Book of Remembrance and a website along with a number of local displays, the first on November 24 from 10am-4pm at Kingswinford Library. Anyone with information to contribute can contact Joy at wallheathk ford@hotmail. co.uk or call 07739572121.

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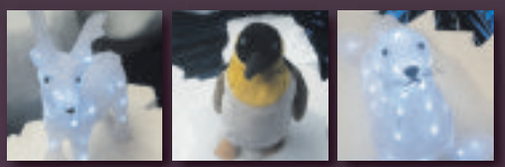

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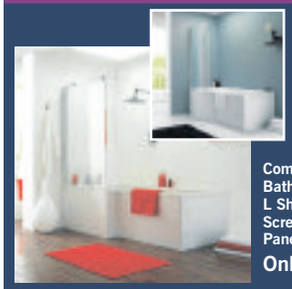

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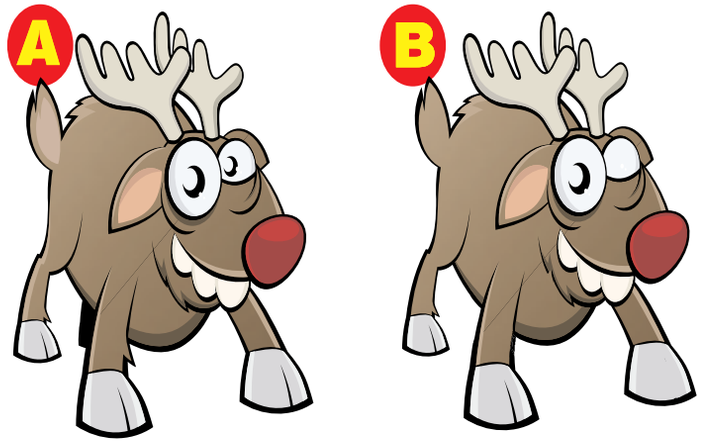

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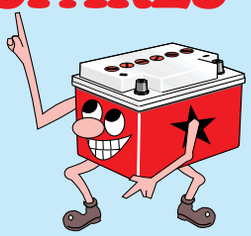

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NEWS

Thriller for youngsters

MORE than 100 young people enjoyed the thrills of a Halloween spectacular hosted by Sandwell Council during half-term.

Young people took part in workshops in the week, culminating in the Scarefest at Coneygre Centre, Tipton.

Big Brother 2012 runner-up Adam Kelly gave an inspirational speech about his experiences.

Young people performed a magic-show and a Thriller dance routine. They also made cakes, and wore costumes they had made. The event ended with spectacular fireworks.

Agencies were also on hand to give information and advice to the youngsters.

£6m casino plan can move ahead following council's licence ruling

PLANS for a £6 million casino which will create 120 jobs have moved a step closer following a legal wrangle.

The scheme was put in jeopardy after a High Court judge ruled the proposed development's casino licence should not have been issued. But last week Sandwell's licensing panel declared the licence was valid, paving the way for the scheme to move forward.

The Rank Group, the parent company of Grosvenor Casinos, was granted a casino licence for a site in Halesowen Street in Oldbury in 2008 – the current site of the Mecca Bingo.

Sandwell Council later gave it permission to transfer the unused licence to Birchley Island, where the proposed £6m venture is planned.

Rival casino operator, Clockfair Ltd, objected to the transfer and a High Court judge ruled the licence should not have been issued.

Mr Justice Lloyd Jones said Sandwell Council should not have granted the licence as it is "clear policy" that premises should not have more than one licence at a time and, as there was already a bingo licence in place at Mecca, the casino licence should not have been issued. He said the council should reconsider an application by Clockfair Ltd to revoke the casino licence.

The borough's licensing panel met to discuss the licence and dismissed Clockfair's application to get the licence revoked.

At a hearing on November 29 the Rank Group will apply for the location of the casino licence to be formally transferred from Halesowen Street to the Birchley Island site. At last week's hearing Stephen Walsh QC, representing Rank, said arguments about the legitimacy of the original ruling were irrelevant.

"The decision of the council remains valid unless it is struck down and that needs to be done within a certain period of time," he said.

"It was never challenged, never struck down and therefore it is a valid licence."

Residents can raise concerns

PEOPLE in Smethwick can hear from the council and police and raise concerns at forum meetings.

The meetings are attended by representatives from Sandwell Council, Sandwell Police and partner organisations.

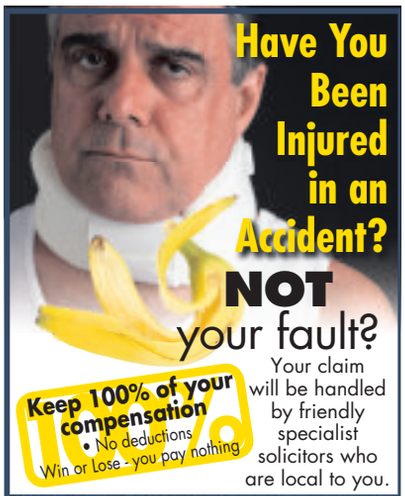
They are at: St Paul's – November 27, 6pm, St Alban's Community Centre, St Alban's Road, Smethwick.

Abbey – December 5, 6pm, St Mary's Church, St Mary's Road, Bearwood.

Soho and Victoria – December 6, 6pm, Windmill Centre, Messenger Road, Smethwick.

Smethwick – December 12, 6pm, Smethwick fire station, Stony Lane, Smethwick.

More details from 0121 569 5377.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Callum in a Channel pool swim for charity

Callum Grocutt in the pool

A 12-year-old boy has swum the equivalent of across the English Channel for charity.

Great Wyrley School pupil Callum Grocutt managed to clock up 22 miles at Bloxwich Leisure Centre, swimming 1,800 lengths over a number of days. His achievement was part of the Aspire Channel Swim 2012 challenge and, in doing it, he has raised more than £200 for the charity helping people with spinal injuries.

His mother Donna, aged 35, from Bloxwich, said: "I'm so proud of him, he's worked so hard to complete it, going every day on his own to raise the money for charity. We all went to see him finish and gave him a big cheer."

Callum would go to the pool up to twice a day over the 10-week period to complete the 22 miles.

Support growing on move to close busy level crossing

MOVES to close a busy level crossing and create a new pedestrian bridge in Bloxwich have won public support – meaning the project is a step closer to becoming a reality.

The plans to block the crossing at Reeves Street have been put forward by Network Rail and Walsall Council as part of the electrification of the Walsall to Cannock line.

by Craig Hughes

The crossing is used by drivers going between Bloxwich and nearby residential and industrial estates. A bridge for pedestrians and cyclists would be built to replace the lost route.

The nearby Central Drive bridge would be strengthened to cope with the extra traffic.

There were initial concerns about the impact on moving traffic to other routes and forcing lorries onto residential streets.

Proposals

However, a consultation exercise in the summer has revealed many people are in favour of the replacement measures. Further firm proposals are now due to be established.

Walsall's transport chief, Councillor Tom Ansell, said: "We have now concluded the initial consultation and would like to thank everyone for taking part.

"It is clear from the responses we received that many are in favour of introducing a pedestrian footbridge and widening and strengthening the Central Drive bridge so we will be working with Network Rail to develop more definite proposals for the area."

He added, though, that not all the feedback was positive and those results have also been passed on to Network Rail.

"We owe it to the local community to find out what they think about the proposals," Councillor Ansell added.

"The responses have been mixed and we have now provided the results to Network Rail to progress it further. We are now consulting with local schools and parents."

It comes after the Department for Transport agreed £30 million plans to electrify the Chase Line, which runs between Walsall and Rugeley. Under the scheme, the numbers of trains per hour will be increased, speed of the line will go from 45 to 75mph and the 20mph speed limit in Bloxwich removed by closing the level crossing.

Team GB gymnast Harry Owen visits pupils at the Mirus Academy in Bloxwich Lane

Team GB star is an inspiration

A TEAM GB gymnast somersaulted his way into a Walsall school to chat to pupils and give a masterclass of his sporty skills.

Harry Owen visited the Mirus Academy in Bloxwich Lane last week.

The three to 11 year-olds from the academy took part in a question-and-answer session with the star and watched demonstrations of his abilities.

Involved

More than 400 pupils were involved in the Sports for Schools initiative, which aims to inspire youngsters to get involved in activities.

Academy vice-principal Julie Wall said the visit had proved a big success.

"They thought it was absolutely brilliant, they really enjoyed it and some said they wanted to be a gymnast," she said.

"They thought Harry was very good, we talk about inspiring a generation and he certainly did."

Centre to host gym taster for all children

BLOXWICH Leisure Centre is hosting a free gymnastics taster session on Wednesday, November 21, for children.

The session for youngsters aged between four and 16 is being held between 5.30pm and 8.30pm.

It is described as suitable for all children, from those with no gymnastics ability to those who have already studied various disciplines.

Discount

Sessions will run every subsequent week at £4 per session and will be available on a first come first served basis until Christmas.

There will be a discount if paid in advance for all of the sessions up to the Christmas break.

A course of 10 weeks starting in January 13 will cost £40.

Community shop boost

A CHARITY shop has raised more than £4,000 for Bloxwich Community Partnership since opening just over a year ago.

New 2 Me opened at Blakenall Community Centre in August last year. The shop is run by volunteers.

The funds will go towards running community activities. Volunteers and donations of clothes and bric-a-brac are sought. Call (01922) 712069.

Advertisement

Suction offers another solution

A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is now available. Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) says the invention has the potential to improve the life quality of those experiencing long-term problems with ill-fitting teeth. The Ultra Suction teeth are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices built into the dentures.

All on 4 is now here

One of the most advanced restorative options for denture wearers is availalbe in Wolverhampton and Dudley. An implant system called All on 4 offers a permanently retained full arch of teeth in a day.

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Finding a traditional answer

The work of the Denture Clinic has found satisfied customers from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye, Anglesey and the south coast of England. Its hand-crafted dentures, made in laboratories on the premises, are known for their natural look, says clinic principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng). "I remain passionate about resolving problems for denture wearers and for many, quality, traditional dentures can bring about hugely effective results. We always aim to exceed expectations and strive for best clinical outcomes."

Ann's transformation

A WORKING union between two dental professionals is helping to bring about life-changing outcomes. Retired health professional Ann was one of their patients. Read why now she's finding a new harmony in life.

"My teeth look and feel just like my own. I cannot speak highly enough of both clinics which provided excellent treatment for me"

ANN flashes an engaging smile and declares confidently: "I'm looking to join a choir – I love singing."

The retired general nurse, midwife and public health worker from the Midlands, continues: "It's one of the things I want to do again, having been involved in a Finding the Voice course.

"It's such a joyous pastime and what's more, it gives me pleasure while hopefully putting something back into life for others." It is hard to imagine Ann shying away from anything – a consummate, articulate professional, who embraces life and opportunity with an infectious enthusiasm.

But trouble with her teeth began to erode her positive approach and she admits her self-image took a dive. I became too self-conscious of my teeth."

She adds: "Family get-togethers over meals became awkward for me because my teeth were not functional, but it was at my mother's 90th birthday party it really came home to me. 'What's the matter with your teeth?

"She said 'they're all misshapen'. It was true.

"My mother said what no-one else would say. It's true also, teeth can be life-damaging." Ann, who once worked in Australia before meeting her husband and returning to the UK, had suffered periodontal (gum) disease of her top crown.

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Some teeth had become loose and twisted while other, more mobile teeth, had to be extracted. Her sister was a patient with Wolverhampton implantologist Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc, principal dentist at *Parkdale Dental Clinic* on Tettenall Road, and she persuaded her to have a consultation with him.

Mr Pugh recalls: "Sadly, by this time, Ann's gum disease was aggressive and far too advanced so we didn't have the option to treat her gum disease. We had to extract all of her upper teeth and then place four implants to support an implant-retained denture."

Ann's case was then referred to Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng) of the *Denture Clinic*, which is now taking appointments in Bearwood, and he prescribed and made the prosthetic. Mr Burchell, who also has a clinic in North Street, Dudley, says: "With the implant-retained top denture we could guarantee stabilisation, giving Ann the smile she wanted and excellent functionality too."

Ann, a volunteer support worker at a hospice, adds: "I cannot speak highly enough of both clinics which provided excellent treatment for me.

"My implant-retained dentures have made a great improvement to my appearance and wellbeing.

"My teeth look and feel just like my own. It's been a good investment and offers a long-term solution."

NEWS

School's sad farewell to much-loved nurse

Students from the Oldbury Academy line the streets for the funeral procession of Sandra Parsley, pictured inset

HUNDREDS of pupils lined the streets outside their school in the Black Country to bid a fond farewell to a much-loved nurse.

Oldbury Academy's medical officer Sandra Parsley, who had worked at the school for 20 years, died five weeks after being diagnosed with lung cancer. Pupils and staff at the Pound Road school bowed their heads as a hearse drove past the school on its way to Sandwell Valley Crematorium.

Her grand-daughter Stephanie Green, 24, said: "She absolutely loved working at the school.

"She would spend more time there than at home.

"She nurtured every child she came into contact with during the time in education, even if this was giving them a humbug that she had in her pocket."

To pupils, Mrs Parsley, of Reservoir Road, Oldbury, was affectionately known as Auntie Big, and children who had long left the school continued to visit her because she was so highly regarded. Mrs Parsley, who was 67, was married to Anthony, was a mother-of-two, grandmother of three and great-grandmother of two.

Oldbury Academy headteacher John Martin said: "Sandra Parsley was a wonderful school nurse who faithfully served the school for nearly 20 years.

"She was a caring individual and was popular amongst our pupils.

"Our hearts and sympathies go out to her family and friends at this immensely difficult time."

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NEWS

Helping Darcy's dream

Kindhearted Freda Gregeen, aged 63, with Darcy Blakeman, four, after raising £2,000 for the youngster by a sponsored swim at Bloxwich Leisure Centre

SHE did not learn to swim until she was 50, but that didn't stop Freda Gregeen from taking the plunge to raise money for her sick neighbour.

The grandmother from Great Wyrley swam 31 lengths at Bloxwich Leisure Centre, raising more than £2,000.

The money will go towards a dream holiday at Disneyland Florida for four-year-old Darcy Blakeman who has been diagnosed with an acute form of leukaemia.

Freda has known the youngster, whose family lives across the road, since she was born and was distraught to learn in May of Darcy's illness.

"She's a lovely little gir," she said. "I wanted to do something and my lovely husband started the ball rolling with £100."

Freda, of Walsall Road, Great Wyrley, took just under an hour to complete the distance in the pool at Bloxwich, with Darcy's brother, Toby, aged seven, as lap counter.

Bid to sell toilets for alternative use of sites

PUBLIC toilets in Walsall could be sold and redeveloped. Alternative uses are being looked at for loos in Pelsall, Rushall, Willenhall, Aldridge, Brownhills and Blakenall Heath.

by Craig Hughes

Former public conveniences elsewhere in the country have been transformed into luxury cottages, hotels, cafes and delicatessens.

Cash-strapped Walsall Council is looking at permanently shutting public loos around the borough as part of moves which could save £120,000 next year.

Significant

Bosses are now looking at whether they could be used for other purposes or the land sold off. Council leader Mike Bird said their closure would be a significant saving as some are in a poor condition.

A report to the authority reads: "The impact is likely to be on the elderly or young who may need public conveniences but other, better, facilities are available in the areas such as libraries and supermarkets.

"The closure of the district public conveniences will make the land/buildings available for re-use or sale."

The toilets have already been temporarily closed at Rushall and Brownhills and permanent closure will save on repairs and maintenance.

Shopkeepers may be given cash incentives to allow the public to use their toilets.

The move has already been put into practice in Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley.

Other options being considered are 88 jobs being axed, the cost of school meals rising and stallholders at Walsall Market facing a £5-a-day rent rise to help save £13 million overall.

A consultation period has now been launched.

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NEWS

Order will use law to disperse gangs of yobs

A NEW dispersal order which has come into force in Blakenall will see gangs of yobs being moved on.

It follows complaints from residents over anti-social behaviour, noise and nuisance.

Police also have powers to return anybody under the age of 16 to their home address between the hours of 9pm and 6am. The order, granted with agreement from Walsall Council, will run until April 8.

Hawbush Road, Beeches Avenue and Stag Hill Road line the edge of the dispersal order area.The zone will also Archer Road and Roebuck Road.

Councillor Zahid Ali, chairman of the Safer Walsall Partnership, said: "Anti-social behaviour across the borough is a major issue and whilst as a whole it is decreasing it remains a priority for all partners.

"There is a lot of good work taking place to make people feel safer and the dispersal order will add to this.

"Partners will continue to utilise the powers available to them to tackle these issues and there will be zero tolerance towards anti-social behaviour in our borough. Firm action will be taken against those whose behaviour makes life a misery for others."

Refusing to disperse when ordered is a criminal offence and could result in a fine of up to £5,000 and/or up to three months in jail.

Hospice rooms revamp

TWO bedrooms at a hospice in Walsall have been refurbished thanks to a £14,000 donation. Acorns Children's Hospice in Walstead Road has benefited from the funding given by the Thomas Cook Children's Charity.

The rooms have been redecorated and have new furniture and fittings. Acorns' head nurse Hilary Ball said: "The support of the Thomas Cook Children's Charity has made an enormous difference. It costs £750 per child per day to provide Acorns' care."

Anti-smoking campaign

Nicola Allen and Wendy Dickinson from the Midcounties Co-operative Pharmacy

STUDENTS at Walsall College have been given support and advice to quit smoking as part of the NHS campaign, Stoptober.

Wendy Dickinson and Nicola Allen from The Midcounties Co-operative pharmacy visited the college to give pupils tips on nicotine replacement therapy and to teach them about the dangers of carbon monoxide.

A breathalyser test was available to measure the CO levels of participants and a cube of tar was on display highlighting the amount that builds up after smoking for two months.

Pradeep Prabhu, pharmacy support services manager, said: "We are hoping that by raising awareness, people will understand the risks of smoking, see the benefits of quitting and know where to come if they need help.

"The smoking cessation services within our pharmacies have been very successful so far. Between June 2010 and August 2012 our four-week quit rate was 52 per cent which is six per cent higher than the regional average.

"We are hoping that more people will understand the risks of smoking, see the benefits of quitting, and know where to come if they need help."

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REVIEWS

Grin and bare it at emotional comedy

Calendar Girls, Wolverhampton Grand

TIM Firth's Calendar Girls, as first made famous on the big screen in 2003, is a real rollercoaster of a play. Now ten years old, it is the real life tale of a Women's Institute who made a controversial nude calendar that landed them in the international media's attention.

Set in rural Yorkshire the play revolves around Annie, played by Sue Holderness, a woman who loses her husband, John, to leukemia. Her WI club is not all jam and Jerusalem, more like vodka and store bought sticky buns.

The all-star cast contains many well known names from TV and the stage. The two leading ladies are Sue Holderness, Marlene in Only Fools and Horses, and Lesley Joseph from Birds of a Feather. These two provide wonderful performances that are emotive and genuinely hilarious.

The other actors are also superb and leave the audience with some really memorable moments. particularly Helen Fraser (as Jessie), the oldest character but the one with the most spirit and some of the funniest lines. The hottie of the group Celia, played by Kathryn Rooney, is a bombshell that may leave the more sensitive blushing.

The film's famous scenes translated well on stage. This is a play with laughter that really tugs at a person's heart strings.

Calendar Girls continues at the Grand until Saturday.

Tom Mason

Dolly led the way

Hello Dolly, Wolverhampton Grand

DOLLY was in good form for Bilston Operatic's latest production at the Grand Theatre.

Combining their talent for quality singing with some strong individual roles produced an entertaining evening. Impressive costumes and sets gave a colourful warm feel to the show.

However, maybe due to first night nerves, some of the big showstopping numbers lacked a bit of sparkle but I'm sure as the week went this will have remedied itself.

Carrying the show's title role is Maggie Page who gives an exceptional performance portraying the humorous and eccentric meddlesome matchmaker Dolly Gallagher Levi.

Greg Yates was a formidable Horace Vandergelder portraying his character perfectly. The comical roles of Cornelius Hackl and Barnaby Tucker were excellently played by Simon McGee and Stephen Yeomans.

Strong individual performances were also given by Sue Towler, Emily Bennett, Sarah Houghton, Emily Halford and Dan Smith.

Hard work and enthusiasm from this company is the key to it's ongoing success.

Les Jowett

Maggie Page and Greg Yates in Hello Dolly at the Grand.

A variety of styles from 'folkchestra'

Bellowhead, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

THE stage could barely contain the 11-piece folkchestra that is Bellowhead.

The set opened with the single tone of the marimba but quickly built up to a wall of sound that exploded into Black Beetle Pies from their latest album Broadside. They managed to get a thrash metal-style ending in.

There was a change of pace then for 10,000 Miles Away, again from the new album, and which had more of a feeling of a sea shanty. Theatricals came out as Jon Boden's distinctive voice and his fellow musicians created a sinister spy theme with The Old Dun Cow. By now the band were in full flow, saxophone, fiddles, accordions, trombones and guitars flying everywhere.

The packed out hall really came to life with one of Bellowhead's best known anthems Whisky Is The Life of Man. Then towards the end of the set they again pulled out one of their favourites, New York Girls. **Danny Farragher**

Wishing she was an audible rocker

Sandi Thom Robin2, Bilston

UNFORTUNATELY Scots blues singer Sandi Thom's performance was marred by some dodgy sound engineering at the Robin2 in Bilston. Even so, it seems she is more a studio artist than a live performer.

Thom is on the road promoting her latest album Flesh and Blood which has been produced by Rich Robinson of the Black Crowes. Although she does has a powerful voice she struggled to overcome the sound of her band on Can't Do It All By Myself, in which she showed her prowess on the harmonica. The struggle to be heard continued as she moved into a funkier number, Stormy Weather from her new album. As expected she treated her scattering of fans to her biggest hit to date, I Wish I Was A Punk Rocker.

Thom moved into a harder rock number in the Human Juke Box before sliding into a blues riff again, showing her skills on the mouth organ.

The sound problems got worse with I Owe You Zero with an overpowering bass just blowing her voice out of the water. Thom then brought out Big Ones Get Away, which on the album features Buffy Saint Marie, this was a more low key solo on acoustic guitar.

All in all, not the best showing for Thom's talents.

Danny Farragher

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Chances to learn skills

PEOPLE in Sandwell can learn about new skills at an exhibition this week.

The Skills Show, at the NEC, Birmingham from November 15-17, will let visitors try more than 40 different skills including ones they might not consider career options. Future Skills Sandwell have two stands and staff advising about brick laying.

Tony Robinson, Future Skills Sandwell business development manager, said: "There will be a huge range of jobs, careers and training opportunities showcased, with industry experts on hand and Careers Advice Hubs offering visitors the opportunity to access a wide range of information and advice on skills, potential career choices, job opportunities, qualifications and training."

Fun-filled events are planned for towns' Christmas light switch-ons

PEOPLE in Wednesbury and Blackheath can join in the festive cheer with fun-filled Christmas lights switch-on events.

One, in Crankhall Lane, Friar Park, Wednesbury on Friday, from 4-7pm, includes a Santa's grotto, funfair, and music.

Peppa Pig and Bob the Builder will be there, and lights will be switched on at around 5pm by the mayor, Councillor Keith Davies.

On Saturday, November 24, an afternoon of family fun and entertainment is lined up for Wednesbury town centre, from 12 to 6pm.

Lights will be switched on around 5pm by the mayor, joined by Honorary Freeman and Olympic torchbearer "Blind" Dave Heeley.

The town centre event includes a Santa's grotto, a 55-person skating rink, a fun fair, entertainment, craft market, clowns and much more.

Admission to both events is free.

Councillor Elaine Costigan said: "These two family events are going to be lots of fun and really get Christmas under way in Wednesbury."

For more information call Marcia Sandel-Massey on 0121 569 3556, or Councillor Costigan on 07891 196199.

In Blackheath town centre, a fun-filled family celebration and lights switch-on is being planned.

Sweets

The free event is on Saturday, from 5pm to 8pm. Councillor Davies and Santa will turn on the lights at 6pm and Santa will have free sweets for children.

The entertainment includes a fun fair, charity stalls, a Christmas gift market, a brass band, St Michael's Band, Blackheath Ukulele Groups Strummers and a choir from Rowley Hall Primary.

The event has been organised by Sandwell Council in association with Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary.

Boots will be raising money for Macmillan Cancer with a Tree of Life for people to remember loved ones.

Road closures will be in operation from 3.30pm until 9pm. Centro staff will be on hand to direct people to bus stops.

Diversions for road surfacing

DIVERSIONS will be in place while road resurfacing work is carried out on a West Bromwich dual carriageway later this week.

The work in All Saints Way is due to start on Thursday and last until next Tuesday.

To enable the work to take place Hargate Lane will be closed at its junction with All Saints Way.

The closures will only be in effect during in-peak working hours.

Traffic will be diverted along Nelson Street, Stone Street, Lily Street, Wilford Road, All Saints Way and vice versa.

The work on All Saints Way will be controlled by lane closures and stop and go traffic management.

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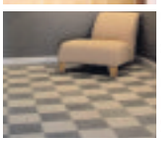
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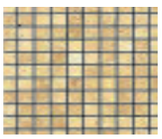
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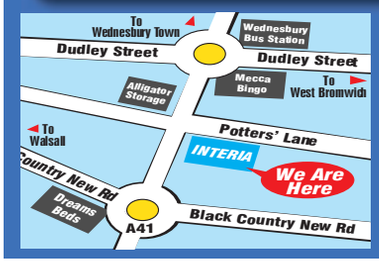

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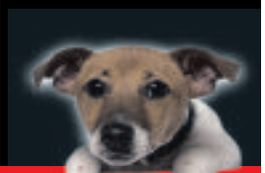

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NEWS

Limit is put on council staff tally of days off

TIME off accrued by flexi-time workers at Walsall Council is being cut from 20 days a year to eight after some staff were found to be abusing the system.

by Mark Mudie

Employees will still be able to claim time off in lieu when they are asked to exceed their contracted hours by chiefs, finance boss Councillor Chris Towe said.

The changes will come into effect from January 1.

"What we are doing is setting a new limit of two days off through flexi-time a quarter, rather than five," Councillor Towe said.

Claim

"Anyone asked to work extra time will still be able to claim time off in lieu.

"Five days a quarter on flexi-time was far too much but eight days a year will bring us in-sync with other public sector organisations."

He continued: "I have no intention of removing flexible time working but we have to make sure what we do is fit for the needs of the council."

Unions were consulted and workers were notified.

Council leader Mike Bird said: "Having analysed the usage on our system it was found that some people had been utilising excessive flexi-time and adding it on as holidays.

"We have addressed this and we are confident that our staff will be happy with what they get.

Two days a quarter is enough."

Flexible working helped Walsall's £21 million New Art Gallery to re-open on Sundays. The council said there were no plans for additional staff.

New opening times started on September 30. It is expected to cost £15,000 up to the end of March to re-open the gallery with 30 staff.

Keeping the dream alive

Singing postman Nathan Farrell from Bloxwich

SINGING postman Nathan Farrell has beaten the competition at the regional finals to make it through to the next stage of the UK open mic championship later this month.

The 26-year-old father-of-two from Church Street, Bloxwich, will perform at the Midlands area final in Bedford on November 25 having beaten 23 fellow competitors at the Birmingham regional final.

Nathan's rocky start to the competition nearly saw him out before he even managed to get in, thanks to a very late entry to the auditions.

But he impressed the judges at the regional final with his performance of Michael Bublé and Julie London standard Cry Me a River. He said: "It was the best performance I have ever done and the judges' response was brilliant."

At his next performance he will compete against 30 other hopefuls and will sing his own track, Keep Your Dreams Alive. He said: "It is my dream to be a professional singer. I love singing. It's what I do best."

Nathan has been in seven talent contests including The Voice and The X Factor. To see his latest performance visit the website at www.openmicuk.co.uk

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VIDEO GAMES

Time to say Halo again to a sci-fi blockbuster

Halo 4 (16)

ONE of the biggest franchises in video games with a history stretching back ten years means the arrival of a fresh Halo is a big deal.

Microsoft even flew a giant illuminated symbol for the new alien threat over London to mark November's launch of Halo 4. But some fans experienced a little trepidation before release, as this was the first installment of the space opera without the guiding hand of original developer Bungie.

They needn't have worried, developers 343 have stuck to the style... perhaps too slavishly. Halo is probably due a reboot but it would take a brave team to tinker with a franchise that has made billions.

It doesn't get tougher than this – Master Chief is back to explore a new world and face a fresh threat in Halo 4, the first of the franchise without original developer Bungie

World

Master Chief is back, woken from his cryogenic slumber by his trusty holographic hotty Cortana to tackle stray Covenant aliens who have boarded his battered spaceship and don't seem to care about the peace treaty.

Soon the Spartan trooper and his enemies find themselves crashing into an alien planet. This gives our armour-plated hero a massive and beautifully austere new world to explore and a new set of formidable enemies. Meanwhile, he is desperate to cure AI Cortana from her digital dementia.

Take Halo 4 online for a whole slew of extra missions.

Dishonored (18)

YOU reap what you sow, and those that use stealth and a little mercy may find they prosper over the shoot and slash crowd in this intelligent, if gory, new game from Arkane and Bethesda.

You play Corvo Attano, a trusted bodyguard framed for the murder of your beloved Empress in the superbly realised steampunk city of Dunwall. Your mission for revenge will mean encountering lots of rats, both human and rodent, and mastering supernatural powers.

This game doesn't deserve to be forgotten in all the fuss over Assassin's Creed III.

007 Legends (16)

SET-PIECES and villains from several Bond movies feature in this adventure with 007 in his Daniel Craig incarnation, including a downloadable Skyfall mission linking to the latest film. Several Bond actors, including Dame Judi Dench and Richard 'Jaws' Kiel lend their voices to boost authenticity. It's a shame they couldn't get Craig as Bond or Honor Blackman to voice Pussy Galore.

The gameplay is unlikely to leave fans shaken or stirred. It is solid and familiar shooter fare like Call Of Duty or previous Bond title Goldeneye 007: Reloaded.

XCOM Enemy Unknown (18)

THE cut-scenes look like a futuristic first person shooter but this game is about strategy. You use a top-down perspective to position your troops to outflank the murderous bug-eyed aliens. It is more fun than it sounds, particularly when you outwit the ETs.

Of Orcs And Men (16)

THEY don't look like the Orcs from Lord of the Rings, more like a cross between The Incredible Hulk and a troll. They sound wrong too, with sweary American accents, and the gameplay is stilted. The scenery is nice.

All reviewed on Xbox 360.

Leon Burakowski

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Centre hosts show of group's work

A NEW exhibition of work by a regional textile group has gone on show at The Public in West Bromwich.

Running until February 3 2013, the exhibition is entitled Festival and Celebration and will showcase the work of 12 members of the Midlands Textile Forum which offers support and professional development for creative textile artists.

The exhibition can be seen Monday to Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sunday 11am-3pm.

Evening is set to be just magical

A COMEDY magician will be performing in West Bromwich tomorrow (Friday).

Piff the Magic Dragon will appear at The Public from 8pm.

The show is suitable for ages 16 and over. Tickets are £12 advanced or £14 on the door. Call 0121 533 7161 for information.

Getting their Drift

THE Drifters Review Cabaret show is on at the Banks's Stadium, Walsall, on Saturday. Tickets for the tribute act cost £30 and are available by calling (01922) 414416.

Music at library

A NIGHT of live music will be held at Thimblemill Library in Smethwick,on November 24 from 7pm to 10pm. Entry is £4 on the door. Children go free.

Get poppin' and lockin' for hit hip hop show at Grand

SOME Like It Hip Hop, the acclaimed dance musical, is coming to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next week as part of its first UK tour since wowing dance fans in London.

ZooNation's follow up to their smash hit Into The Hoods, Some Like It Hip Hop blends elements borrowed from Hollywood and Shakespeare with pure dance energy for a story about cross-dressing women taking on a man's world.

Directed by Kate Prince and featuring music from Josh Cohen and DJ Walde, the show combines comedy, theatre and liquid moves from some of the best young hip hop dancers in the UK.

Disguise

It tells the story of two bright girls who refuse to be kept down by a society that bans books and treats women as second class citizens, so they disguise themselves as men. Comic confusion results when romance is involved.

Some Like It Hip Hop forges elements from classic Billy Wilder movie Some Like It Hot and Shakespeare's Twelfth Night into a fresh fleet-footed fantasy.

It's at the Grand on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The original Hoodie on Arena stage

ODDSOCKS theatre company return to Wolverhampton with a comic romp taking a sideways look at Britain's most famous legendary outlaw.

Described as an energetic and musical production suitable for all the family, The Adventures of Robin Hood will be staged at Wolverhampton Arena Theatre on Wednesday and Thursday, November 21 and 22.

Also returning to the Wulfruna Street venue are acclaimed comedy dance duo Rannel, who tonight (Thursday) make hip hop hilarious with 2Deep, their sequel to the acclaimed Flhip Flhop.

Cinders will go to the ball – Elisha Willis plays the title role in Birmingham Royal Ballet's popular festive production of Cinderella at Birmingham Hippodrome. She will be sharing the role with six other ballerinas during the run *Picture by Bill Cooper*

Invitation to the ball for a traditional ballet treat

BIRMINGHAM Royal Ballet's sumptuous production of Cinderella returns to Birmingham Hippodrome, to usher in the festive season from November 21 to December 9.

The production by the company's director David Bintley got its world premiere in the city in 2010 and was televised by the BBC.

The fairy tale is given the full glittering treatment and is perhaps only surpassed by family favourite The Nutcracker as the most popular Christmas ballet.

The skill of the dancers and glamorous costumes will be matched by Prokofiev's music, performed by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia.

Rotarians hosting festive music night

THE Rotary Club of Willenhall are presenting a Christmas Celebration by Candlelight at the Parish Church of St Giles, Walsall Street, Willenhall on December 12 at 7pm. It is the club's eighth such annual event.

Performers will include the children's singing group from St Giles Primary School, the church's Sunday Cool Group and the popular and the Short Heath Singers.Tickets for the event are £3, available on the night, including a programme and light refreshments.

Kabaddi play to have its premiere

A PLAY about Indian sport and nationhood gets its premiere at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Monday and is performed at The Public in West Bromwich on Wednesday.

Kabaddi Kabaddi Kabaddi, by Satinder Chohan, explores the sport and the story of India, linking the 1930s with today. Suitable for those aged 14 and over, it is also a love story.

Nolans tour is off

SINGING sisters The Nolans have cancelled their Farewell Tour. It was to have included a concert at Birmingham NIA on March 12. Bernie Nolan, 52, recently revealed that she faces a new battle against cancer.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 17.11.12

CHOICE

Paddy McGuinness

Take Me Out
ITV1, 6.45pm
Does Paddy McGuinness have the best job in telly? As if it's not enough that he gets the rewarding task of playing at being Cilla Black, the comic is constantly surrounded by (on the whole) a bunch of rather easy-on-the-eye girls. It seems a long time ago when walked in the shadow of comic sidekick and best friend Peter Kay. He's lined up four more loveless men for tonight's show: Matt, a trainer fanatic from Leicester; Pete, a builder from Chichester; Sam, a BMX champion from Colchester; and Luke, a student from Surrey.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Baking Made Easy. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Cycling: Track World Cup. **2.00** Live International Rugby Union. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** Children in Need: The Best Bits.

6.30 Strictly Come Dancing. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present from Wembley Arena, where the couples dance through the decades, from 1920s Charleston to 1970s disco. Kylie Minogue sings an old favourite.

8.00 Merlin. Morgana hatches a plot to murder the king with the help of an insider under her spell – but when a stable hand becomes caught in the crossfire, he threatens to ruin everything.

8.45 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. With a performance by doo-wop group the Overtones.

8.55 Casualty. Tamzin's refusal to treat an aggressive patient has serious repercussions, while Tom and Sam disagree over the best treatment for a patient with a rare genetic disorder.

9.45 Live at the Apollo. New series. Dara O Briain warms up the crowd before introducing stand-up routines by ventriloquist extraordinaire Nina Conti and the irrepressible Danny Bhoy.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Highlights of today's Premier League clashes; National Lottery Update.

12.00 The Football League Show. **1.15** Weatherview. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00 Film:** That Darn Cat! (1965) **1.50 Film:** Miracle. (2004) **4.00** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Live International Rugby Union. Ireland XV v Fiji (Kick-off 5.30pm).

7.30 Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild. David Attenborough reflects on his TV career, examining the changes in the natural world as well as the developments in wildlife film-making since he began in 1952. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and the platoon dress as firemen to take part in an initiative exercise. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and Clive Dunn. (R)

9.00 Formula 1: The United States Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. Jake Humphrey introduces a chance to see the session from the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, where the 19th and penultimate round of the season is set to take place.

10.15 The Rolling Stones: Crossfire Hurricane. Part one of two. Documentary charting the 50-year career of the rock band, with contributions by Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts, Ronnie Wood, Bill Wyman and Mick Taylor.

11.15 Sings the Rolling Stones. Compilation of artists covering classic songs by the Stones, including performances by Gene Pitney, Thelma Houston, Chris Farlowe, Patti Smith, Marianne Faithfull, Devo and Melanie.

12.15 The Rolling Stones: Rock and Roll Circus. (R) **1.20** Later with Jools Holland. (R) **2.25 Film:** Night of the Living Dead. (1968)

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** The Hive. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** The Avengers. **7.25** Rated A for Awesome. **7.40** Rated A for Awesome. **7.50** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.05** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.20** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.35** Shake It Up. **9.00** My Phone Genie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** Dinner Date: Australia. **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.10** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **2.10** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **3.10 Film:** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. (2005) **5.15** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.30** ITV News; Weather. **5.45** The Golden Rules of TV.

6.15 New You've Been Framed! Featuring a family having fun with a Taser.

6.45 Take Me Out. A Leicester fitness fanatic, a builder from Chichester, a BMX champion from Colchester and a Surrey student take part in the dating show.

8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents the seventh live studio round as the remaining acts battle to win praise from the tough-talking judges and persuade viewers to pick up their phones and vote. The results are tomorrow at 8pm.

9.20 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! The famous faces enter their second week in the jungle.

10.20 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Film: Fast & Furious. (2009) Thriller sequel, starring Vin Diesel and Paul Walker.

12.30 The Store; ITV News Headlines. **2.35** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.55** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freesports on 4. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** Channel 4 Presents – Lee. (R) **9.00** T4: Example at iTunes Festival 2012 Special. **9.30** T4: Made in Chelsea. **10.35** T4: Suburgatory. **11.15** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.45** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.15** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **12.40** Deal or No Deal. **1.45** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** Come Dine with Me Down Under. **4.25** Come Dine with Me Down Under. **4.55** Come Dine with Me Down Under. **5.25** Come Dine with Me Down Under. **5.55** Come Dine with Me Down Under.

6.25 Channel 4 News.

6.55 4thought.tv. Members of the public reflect on whether faith is a matter of nature or nurture, in light of scientific studies that suggest humans may be programmed from birth to believe in a god.

7.00 Heston's Fantastical Food. Heston Blumenthal is given access to Europe's largest ice-cream factory to build the world's biggest 99 Flake – taller than five metres and weighing in at more than a ton. (R)

8.00 Film: Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen. (2009) The shape-changing robots fight for control of a machine hidden somewhere on Earth with the power to destroy planets. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Shia LaBeouf.

10.50 Film: The Crazies. (2010) Premiere. Horror remake, starring Timothy Olyphant.

12.50 Film: Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives. (2010) **2.40** Hollyoaks. **4.45** Countdown. (R) **5.30** Make Do & Mend. (R) **5.55** Channel 4 Presents. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.10** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.20** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.25** Highland Emergency. (R) **11.55** Wild Things with Dominic Monaghan. (R) **12.55 Film:** The Train Robbers. (1973) **2.45 Film:** Brannigan. (1975) **4.55** 5 News Weekend. **5.00 Film:** Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes. (1984)

7.40 NCIS. Tony's cover is blown as the hunt for La Grenouille intensifies and his car is later destroyed in an explosion, leaving the rest of the team convinced he is dead. (R)

8.35 NCIS. The agents are called to the scene of a car accident in which a petty officer was killed. (R)

9.25 CSI: NY. A woman who was nearly beaten to death identifies her son as the attacker, but a convicted drug dealer later confesses to the crime, forcing the team to investigate his motives. (R)

10.25 CSI: Miami. Part one of two. The murder of a journalist is linked to a Miami council leader, and Horatio comes up against an old adversary. Guest starring Malcolm McDowell.

11.20 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Part two of two. Brass fights for his life after being shot, while the team tries to focus on investigating the death of a man decapitated on a train track. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Great Artists. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 International Rugby Union **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **9.45 Film:** Bruce Almighty (2003) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey, Jennifer Aniston and Morgan Freeman. **11.20** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 Metalworks! – The Golden Age of Silver **8.00** Shock and Awe: The Story of Electricity **9.00** The Killing III **11.00** Chateau Chunder: When Australian Wine Changed the World

ITV2
4.35 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.35 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **7.20 Film:** Dragonheart (1996) Fantasy adventure, starring Dennis Quaid and featuring the voice of Sean Connery. **9.20** The Xtra Factor **10.20** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.25** Take Me Out – The Gossip

ITV3
3.50 Agatha Christie's Marple **5.55** Murder, She Wrote **6.55** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Bomb Girls **11.00 Film:** The Portrait of a Lady (1996)

ITV4
2.05 Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **4.20 Film:** The Battle of Midway (1976) **7.00** The Motorbike Show **8.00** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** Firefox (1982) **11.45** Hamish & Andy's Euro Gap Year

E4
3.30 Made in Chelsea **4.30** Baggage **5.35** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Rules of Engagement **9.00** Rude Tube **10.05 Film:** Shooter (2007)

Film4
2.50 Post Grad (2009) **4.35** The Day After Tomorrow (2004) **7.05** Big Momma's House (2000) **9.00** Hush (2008) **10.45** Pitch Black Heist **11.00** Don't Look Now (1973)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 18.11.12

CHOICE

Suranne Jones

The Secret of Crickley Hall
BBC1, 9pm

If there's one upside to the dark, cold November nights, it's that they provide the perfect conditions for snuggling up on the sofa and watching a spooky drama. Suranne Jones and Tom Ellis star as Eve and Gabe, a London-based couple who move to the north, hoping a change of scene will help them recover from the mysterious disappearance of their young son. Sadly, their new home of Crickley Hall proves anything but comforting, as things go bump in the night – and flashbacks to 1943 suggest the building could have a tragic history.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics; Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.25** Countryfile. (R) **1.20** Bargain Hunt. **2.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.20** Nature's Miracle Babies. (R) **4.20** Lifeline. **4.30** Points of View. **4.45** Songs of Praise. **5.20** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **5.50** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.20 Countryfile. John Craven and Julia Bradbury are in rural Leicestershire, visiting an Army training camp for dogs and horses, as well as planting 3,000 saplings in an empty field. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Another couple leave and Girls Aloud perform.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The team arrives at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall in Falmouth, where objects include a diamond and gold ring with a grim family history. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.

9.00 The Secret of Crickley Hall. New series. Drama about a grieving London couple haunted by the children who lived in their house during the war. Suranne Jones, Tom Ellis, Olivia Cooke and Douglas Henshall star.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Formula 1: The United States Grand Prix – Highlights.

12.25 Film: Hooper. (1978) **2.00** Weatherview. **2.05** Sign Zone: Holby City. (R) **3.05** The Paradise. (R) **4.05** Film 2012 with Claudia Winkleman. (R) **4.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off Masterclass. (R) **12.30** International Rugby Union. **1.30** Cycling: Track World Cup. **5.15** Coast. (R) **5.30** Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve. (R)

6.30 Fawlty Towers. Basil decides to enhance the hotel's reputation with an exclusive night of gourmet cuisine. Unfortunately, his new chef is distracted by hapless waiter Manuel. (R)

7.00 Operation Iceberg. Part two of two. The team boards an iceberg to determine what causes them to decay, and Chris Packham takes to the skies to conduct a polar-bear census. (R)

8.00 Sandy: Anatomy of a Superstorm. Documentary using satellite imagery, CGI mapping and personal testimonies to give an account of the effects on New York State of the storm surge caused by Hurricane Sandy.

9.00 Dragons' Den. Ideas and innovations include an update of the paintbrush, a new type of glove for golfers, a driving school for 14-year-olds and an electronic bed stored in the ceiling.

10.00 Harry & Paul. The duo reinvent themselves as Ricky Gervais.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Highlights of Fulham v Sunderland.

11.20 Hebburn. Jack spends his first day as editor of the Hebburn Advertiser. (R)

11.50 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. With guest host Richard Ayoade. (R)

12.20 Film: My Year Without Sex. (2009) **1.50** BBC News. **4.35** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Engie Benjy. **6.10** Jungle Junction. **6.25** Jungle Junction. **6.35** Signed Stories. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **7.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.35** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.00** Phineas and Ferb. **8.15** Phineas and Ferb. **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** Good Luck Charlie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **10.25** Dinner Date. **11.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.25** Countrywise. **12.40** ITV News; Weather. **12.55 Film:** Carry On Henry. (1971) **2.40** The X Factor. (R) **4.00** The Home of Fabulous Cakes. **5.00** The Nation's Favourite Number 1 Single. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Surprise Surprise. With One Direction, Team GB hockey players and the 60 Minute Makeover crew.

8.00 The X Factor Results. Another elimination and more performances by chart-topping stars.

9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Yhe latest stories from the Australian jungle and another unlucky celebrity faces a Bushtucker Trial to earn food for their hungry fellow campers.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Patsy Palmer. The EastEnders star talks about her career and personal life. (R)

11.45 Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union. Highlights of the second round of pool matches.

12.40 The Store; ITV News Headlines. **2.40** Motorsport UK. **3.35** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Extreme Sailing Series. **7.30** Sailing: America's Cup Discovered. (R) **7.55** Channel 4 Presents – Oscar. (R) **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. **12.25** The Simpsons. **12.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.10** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **3.40** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **4.10** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **4.40** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **5.10** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **5.40 Film:** Home Alone. (1990)

7.40 Channel 4 News.

7.55 4thought.tv. Members of the public ask whether faith is a matter of nature or nurture, in light of recent scientific studies that suggest humans may be programmed from birth to believe in a god.

8.00 How Britain Worked. Guy Martin helps with the restoration of the oldest surviving Brixham sailing trawler and discovers how Britain acquired its taste for fish and chips.

9.00 Homeland. Carrie and the team struggle to regain control of the operation, Saul visits Aileen Morgan in solitary confinement and Dana presses Finn to come clean about the hit-and-run.

10.00 Film: Watchmen. (2009) At the height of the Cold War, former superheroes discover a conspiracy when one of their number is murdered. Comic-book drama, starring Patrick Wilson and Jackie Earle Haley.

1.05 American Football Live. **4.45** Grudge Match. (R) **4.55** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.50** Channel 4 Presents – Jonnie. (R) **5.55** The Treacle People. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Olive the Ostrich. **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Animal Antics. (R) **7.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Mio Mao. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.10** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.15** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.20** Meals in Moments. (R) **11.30** Rolf's Animal Clinic. (R) **12.35 Film:** You've Got Mail. (1998) **2.50 Film:** Open Season. (2006) **4.35 Film:** Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle. (2003)

6.40 5 News Weekend.

6.45 Film: Stealth. (2005) Action adventure, with Jamie Foxx.

9.00 Film: Unforgiven. (1992) Two gunslingers help a bounty hunter kill a pair of cowboys who attacked a prostitute. Western, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. With Gene Hackman and Morgan Freeman.

11.30 Hatfields & McCoys. Anse sends his men out to kill Randall. (R)

12.30 How Do They Do It? (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **4.00** The FBI Files. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Snog, Marry, Avoid? **8.00** Gavin & Stacey **9.00** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents **10.00** Him & Her **11.00** American Dad! **11.45** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 The Last Days of Steam **8.00** Michael Wood: The Story of India **9.00** From the Sea to the Land Beyond: Storyville **10.15 Film:** Undertow (2009) **11.50** Michael Wood: The Story of India

ITV2
3.10 Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **4.55** Take Me Out **6.05** Take Me Out – The Gossip **6.50 Film:** Twins (1988) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Results **10.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **10.30** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.35** Girlfri3nds

ITV3
2.55 A Touch of Frost **4.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **7.00** Lewis. A college master is found dead at the university's astronomical observatory. **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Cracker

ITV4
2.55 Film: Aces High (1976) **5.15 Film:** Dunkirk (1958) **8.00** Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Resident Evil (2002) **11.00 Film:** Bride of Chucky (1998)

E4
3.25 Charlie's Angels **4.20** Made in Chelsea **5.20** Scrubs **5.50** Suburgatory **6.20** The Big Bang Theory **8.20 Film:** Hot Shots! (1991) **10.00** Misfits **11.00** 2 Broke Girls **11.30** The Big Bang Theory

Film4
3.10 Crocodile Dundee (1986) **5.10** Carry On Up the Khyber (1968) **6.55** Employee of the Month (2006) **9.00** Patriot Games (1992) Political thriller, starring Harrison Ford. **11.15** After the Sunset (2004)

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DESSERT
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MAIN COURSE
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What's On!

Film Choices

Monday
A Few Good Men, Channel 5, 11.05pm
Three Navy lawyers are assigned to defend two marines accused of murdering a comrade-in-arms. Their investigation unearths evidence that the defendants may have been acting under orders, which points to a trail of corruption leading all the way to a top-ranking officer. Drama based on Aaron Sorkin's stage play, starring Tom Cruise, Demi Moore, Kevin Pollack, Jack Nicholson, Kiefer Sutherland and Kevin Bacon. (1992)

Tuesday
Hollywoodland, BBC1, 11.40pm
Fact-based mystery focusing on the life and sudden death of actor George Reeves, famed for his role as Superman in the 1950s TV series. The story is told in flashback through the eyes of a private investigator hired by Reeves' mother to unearth the truth surrounding his mysterious fate. Starring Adrien Brody, Diane Lane, Ben Affleck, Bob Hoskins, Robin Tunney, Molly Parker, Kathleen Robertson and Lois Smith. (2006)

The Transporter, Wednesday, Channel 5, 9pm

Wednesday
The Transporter, Channel 5, 9pm
An underworld courier lives by a simple code – to never ask what he is transporting. However, when he discovers his latest cargo is alive, his conscience gets the better of him and he faces a dangerous game of cat and mouse with his unknown but powerful employers. Action adventure, starring Jason Statham, Shu Qi, Matt Schulze, Francois Berleand, Ric Young, Doug Rand, Didier Saint Melin and Tonio Descanvelle. (2002)

Thursday
Navy Seals, Channel 5, 10pm
The US Navy's elite commando force embarks on a dangerous covert mission to rescue hostages from an Arab terrorist in Beirut. However, the assignment proves far more serious than expected when they realise their enemies have acquired powerful stolen missiles. Action adventure, starring Charlie Sheen, Michael Biehn, Bill Paxton, Joanne Whalley, Rick Rossovich, Cyril O'Reilly, Dennis Haysbert and Nicholas Kadih. (1990)

Friday
Accepted, ITV1, 11.10pm
A high-school student denied a place at any of his chosen colleges resolves to set up an educational institution of his own in collaboration with slacker friends. The ingenious misfits go to great lengths to convince their parents of the college's authenticity, despite its unorthodox curriculum. Comedy, starring Justin Long, Jonah Hill, Adam Herschman, Columbus Short, Maria Thayer, Lewis Black, Blake Lively and Mark Derwin. (2006)

Pick of the Week

The past comes back to haunt grieving parents

Many parents will struggle to think of anything more terrifying than their child going missing, but The Secret of Crickley Hall somehow manages it.

Based on a novel by horror king James Herbert, the three-part drama follows a couple who lose their son, and then move into a haunted house.

But while it may sound like a nightmare, it's part of what attracted Suranne Jones to the drama.

She explains: "I think that's the backdrop of any good ghost story – a missing child or some sort of trauma that kind of helps the audience relate to the characters."

So, viewers should prepare to have their bones chilled by this tale of Eve (Jones) and Gabe (Tom Ellis), who live in London with their three children.

One day an exhausted Eve is in a playground with their son Cam, and briefly falls asleep – and when she wakes, the youngster is nowhere to be seen. Although the family cling to the hope that he will be found alive, almost a year passes with no news.

Gabe eventually accepts a new job in the north, believing his wife and two daughters, Loren and Cally, will benefit from a change of scene.

Unfortunately, it seems he may have made the wrong decision in moving to Crickley Hall, which turns out to have a sinister past.

Running parallel to Gabe and Eve's story are the events of 1943, when Crickley Hall was an orphanage, run by Augustus Cribben (Douglas Henshall) and his sister Magda (Sarah Smart).

New tutor Nancy (Olivia Cooke) suspects the children are being mistreated, but no one seems to believe her.

And when back in 2012, Cally and Loren experience visions of a man with a cane, it seems the time periods may not be as remote as we thought.

For Suranne Jones, it's the two timelines that make the drama so unique. "When I read the script, I'd never done anything in the ghost genre, and the narrative of a woman losing her child was the strong bit for me, as well as the two time frames.

"You're following a woman's desperation, but then you'll also see what she doesn't see."

And unlike in most horror films, where you're screaming at the characters to just get out of the haunted house, Eve has a reason for sticking around, even after the family dog runs off in terror.

She becomes convinced that one of the ghostly presences in Crickley Hall is her son Cam, who seems to be telling her that the children hold the key to his disappearance and can tell her where he is…

If it sounds creepy on the page, it should be even more unsettling on screen, and Jones admits she can't wait to see the finished product.

"The CGI guys will get on top of it, there'll be a brilliant composer, the editing will be great… I mean we need to do our job as well, but those are the things that are going to make it jumpy along the way."

Don't say you haven't been warned.

Iain de Caestecker, Maisie Williams, Bill Milner and Pixie Davies also star.

Suranne Jones stars in The Secret of Crickley Hall, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

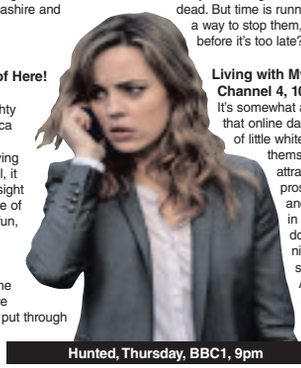
Monday
The All New Gadget Show
Channel 5, 8pm
Christmas has definitely come early for Jason Bradbury and Pollyanna Woodward. They are off to Israel, where they test two of the latest underwater cameras in the Red Sea. (Clearly their local swimming baths wasn't deemed exotic enough). If you're one of the few people in the world thinking: 'What's the best blender to make a decent leek smoothie, and what battery-powered torch is powerful enough to fry an egg on?', then you're in luck as Jason provides the answer to both questions. The main purpose of the trip is to visit Israel's annual Kinnernet networking event for technology enthusiasts. Jason tries out his powered kiteboard, and there's also a guide to powering a mobile phone using water.

Stephen Fry: Gadget Man
Channel 4, 8.30pm
A few years ago Stephen Fry presented a countdown of the 100 greatest gadgets for Channel 4. Now he's back with another strand bound to appeal to those of us whose rooms are usually lit up like Christmas trees with all the things on charge. He'll be sharing his passion for technology, trying out all manner of gizmos and prototypes, as well as attempting to create his own supergadget. Jonathan Ross joins him for the inaugural edition, and they examine how the daily commute can be made more bearable. The world's smallest electric car, an unusual bicycle and a 3D headset are scrutinised, and Stephen designs a fantasy vehicle that would avoid the horrors of traffic jams.

Tuesday
Last Tango in Halifax
BBC1, 9pm
Don't panic – despite the title, the plot won't involve any naughtiness in a West Yorkshire town. Instead, this six-part romantic comedy focuses on the rather touching tale of Celia Dawson and Alan Buttershaw, former lovers who haven't seen each other for 60 years. After chatting on Facebook, they decide to meet up again, and discover they were kept apart all those decades ago by a simple twist of fate. What's more, their old, passionate feelings for each other are immediately reignited. Anne Reid, Derek Jacobi, Sarah Lancashire and Nicola Walker head the cast.

Wednesday
I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!
ITV1, 8.30pm
This time last year much of Blighty was hooked on the site of Jessica Jane Clement and Mark Wright wearing trousers full of water trying to complete their latest trial. Well, it was nothing if not original. The sight of Sinitta stood all night in a cave of creepy crawlies was also good fun, and who could forget eventual winner Dougie Poynter racing round what looked like a rat's maze trying to collect stars for the evening meal? By now we'll have seen all manner of Z-list celebs put through their paces, while Ant and Dec commentate on their progress.

Thursday
Hunted
BBC1, 9pm
It's fair to say that most of Melissa George's best roles have come on the small screen – she's been particularly fine in this gritty drama, which has buried memories of her role as Angel in Home and Away once and for all. This is the final episode, and it promises to be gripping stuff – Sam is exposed as a spy and trapped inside the house where she is slowly, and secretly, being poisoned to death. Her memory also begins to return, and it's then that she realises why the Hourglass conspirators want her dead. But time is running out – can she find a way to stop them, and save herself, before it's too late?


Hunted, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

Living with My Stalker
Channel 4, 10pm
It's somewhat a given these days that online daters will tell a couple of little white lies to make themselves sound a more attractive option to prospective partners – and there's no real harm in that. But for trainee doctor Alison Hewitt, the nightmare began when she agreed to meet Al Amin Dhalla – who she thought was a respectable Canadian businessman. As it turned out, Dhalla's entire life story was based on lies – but Alison and her family didn't know the half of it. After the couple broke up, it became clear that the Dhalla wouldn't stop at anything to get her back, including poison pen letters, arson, building a torture chamber and eventually hiring a hit man.

Friday
Have I Got News for You
BBC1, 9pm
Now pay attention comedy fans. What we have here is a half hour collection of topical news stories lined up in the satirical crosshairs of agents Ian Hislop, Paul Merton and their guests – comedian Marcus Brigstocke and journalist Rachel Johnson. The quartet will be trying to guess what happened next, the missing headlines and assorted other teasers posed by this week's celebrity guest host – James Bond legend Roger Moore.

Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild
BBC2, 9pm
The word 'legend' gets bandied around a lot in TV, but if there is one man who deserves the term, it's David Attenborough. Not only has he been on our screens for an impressive 60 years, his programmes have helped to advance our understanding of the world around us – and there are very few celebs who can say that. However, it seems David continues to amass his learning, as he looks back at some of the scientific breakthroughs that have been made during his decades on the air. And it's not just the theories and scientific concepts that have changed – there have also been extraordinary advances in filming.

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What's On!

Brain Gym No.195

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

23	13	15	12	■	7	13	17	24	21 I	4 N	8	15
21	■	9	■	■	6	■	■	21	■	6	■	18
16	■	10	2	19	6	9	15	5	■	8	■	21
2	22	6	■	■	■	15	■	■	18	17	3	6
6	■	26	■	20	25	17	1	■	■	20	■	4
■	21	20	26	25	■	20	■	6	10	6	26	20
■	■	■	■	2	■	22	■	5	■	■	■	■
22	16	2	21	14	■	1	■	17	24	6	4	■
20	■	4	■	■	1	17	18	24	■	2	■	4
17	11	21	14	■	■	21	■	■	■	18	12	6
11	■	16	■	26	15	4	14	2	26	6	■	5
6	■	2	■	17	■	■	15	■	■	19	■	2
22	25	6	6	20	21	4	8	■	24	17	22	22

1	14
2	15
3	16
4 N	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21 I
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
G	J	V	F	L	H	K	P	T	X	B	S	O
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	I	W	N	E	Q	U	Y	A	C	D	M	Z

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. This will fix the pitch - it's almost split (4)
8. Mad reason for rail-stock (10)
9. Plates made to suit the palate (8)
10. Part of Nassau radiates a particular atmosphere (4)
12. Crazy about the girl affected by a crush! (6)
14. Completely assimilate a summary (6)
15. The man who holds the money-bags on board? (6)
17. Rocket an astronomical distance from the Earth (6)
18. Make a sly observation both ways (4)
19. This sort of portrait is completely countenanced (4-4)
21. In the main, these are disastrous losses (10)
22. Don't reveal the sources of leather (4)

Down

2. It's true I alter a variety of printed matter (10)
3 & 20 Dn. What can be obtained from sole distributors! (4-4)
4. Scratched, but collected points (6)
5. Think the advertisement outside created a diversion (6)
6. Could this sort of play have a crooked plot? (8)
7. Sounds like one who listens to the goddess (4)
11. Limited the others with direct arrangement (10)
13. This may provide a flower spray in the garden (4-4)
16. About to shape a policy for improvement (6)
17. Sun spot providing comfort (6)
18. Adopt an attitude to set somebody a problem (4)
20. See 3 Down

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Leave (4)
8. Unsurpassed (10)
9. Cannibal (3-5)
10. Gloomy (4)
12. Precious metal (6)
14. Make possible (6)
15. Transgressor (6)
17. Sermonise (6)
18. Boast (4)
19. Lamentation (8)
21. Emendation (10)
22. Profound (4)

Down

2. Strange (10)
3. Weary (4)
4. Acrimonious (6)
5. Savage (6)
6. Ironmongery (8)
7. Summit (4)
11. Unwillingness (10)
13. Sour (8)
16. Discard (6)
17. Allow (6)
18. Support (4)
20. Repair (4)

1	2		3	■	4	■	5	■	6	■	■	7
■		■	8									
■		■		■		■		■		■	■	
9								■	10		11	
■	■	■	■			■		■		■		■
12			13			■	14					
■		■		■	■	■	■	■		■		■
15					16	■	17					
■		■		■		■		■	■	■		■
18					19				20			
	■			■		■		■		■		■
21										■		■
	■	■		■		■		■	22			

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Atlas; 8 Inherit; 9 Packing; 10 Rower; 12 Hand-to-hand; 15 On the shelf; 18 Tiara; 19 Usurper; 21 Shellac; 22 Nylon. Down: 1 Camping out; 2 Slack; 3 Asti; 4 Singed; 5 Charcoal; 6 Crowbar; 11 Red herring; 13 Amenable; 14 Steamed; 16 Haunch; 17 Apple; 20 Urns. QUICK - Across: 7 Local; 8 Younger; 9 Opulent; 10 Gates; 12 Speculator; 15 Upside-down; 18 Dress; 19 Segment; 21 Private; 22 Irate. Down: 1 Bloodhound; 2 Occur; 3 Else; 4 Mystic; 5 Bungalow; 6 Agitate; 11 Strengthen; 13 Pedestal; 14 Ascetic; 16 Dispel; 17 Legal; 20 Grim.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

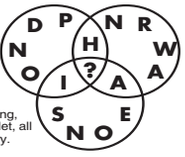
5	9		6			2		
	3				8		6	
								4
7		2	9	4	6		8	
3			1		5	9		2
			3	8	2			1
1								
	7		5	2			9	
		6			9		5	3

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	7	4	6	3	2	5	1	8
2	6	5	1	7	8	9	4	3
3	8	1	9	4	5	6	2	7
1	9	6	7	8	4	3	5	2
8	2	7	5	6	3	4	9	1
5	4	3	2	1	9	7	8	6
4	1	8	3	5	7	2	6	9
7	5	9	8	2	6	1	3	4
6	3	2	4	9	1	8	7	5

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is A. Earring, necklace, bracelet, all items of jewellery.

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Act fast to snap up a home at popular development

Housebuilder David Wilson Mercia's Hamlet Place has 11 homes left for sale

A range of three- and four-bedroomed houses are available at the development

LEADING housebuilder David Wilson Mercia is urging people looking for a move to visit its Hamlet Place development in Bloomfield Road in Tipton soon.

The development is proving so popular that there are only 11 homes left for sale there.

Alastair Parsons, senior sales manager for David Wilson Mercia said: "Hamlet Place has been popular with first-time buyers as well as families.

"We are pleased to announce that we are down to our final 11 houses. We still have a great range of three-and four-bedroom houses available which are ideal for families looking for that extra bit of space," Mr Parsons added.

Hamlet Place is located in the town of Tipton, conveniently located halfway between Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

Hamlet Place also benefits from being only two miles away from Dudley town centre with its array of high street shops, bars, restaurants and supermarkets.

Mr Parsons said: "We would suggest that anyone interested in a new home in Tipton should act fast, as our final homes will be selling very quickly.

Information

"Come and talk to us today to see how we can help you move to Hamlet Place."

David Wilson Homes currently has range of three-and four-bedroom homes for sale at its Hamlet Place development priced from £145,000.

For more information people can contact the sales centre by phoning 0121 522 3713. The centre is open each day from 10am to 5pm.

Alternatively, for more information people can call the sales hotline on 0844 811 3322 which is open seven days a week from 8am to 9pm.

Or anyone interested can log on to the website, www.dwh.co.uk

Rising demand fails to lift prices

BUYER demand in the West Midlands rose at its fastest rate since the summer of 2009 in October, says the latest housing market survey from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

The RICS in the West Midlands reported a boost in new buyer enquiries. The growing optimism shown in recent months may be translating into an upturn in activity.

But despite demand seeing an upturn, prices across the West Midlands continued to dip, says the survey. Prices have now been in negative territory since May 2010.

RICS spokesman Ian Perry said: "The number of potential buyers going out and viewing property saw a welcome boost last month.

"That being said, overall activity is still very low in most parts of the country and what the market desperately needs is for this to translate into actual sales."

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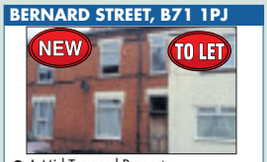

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Semi-detached property
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SMETHWICK

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SMETHWICK

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West Bromwich

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West Bromwich

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West Bromwich

Lones Road
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£145,000

West Bromwich

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West Bromwich

Bridge Street
One bedroom Maisonette. Briefly comprising of Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, One Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing and Central Heating.
£400 PCM

West Bromwich

Vicarage Road
Well presented three bedroom mid terrace property. Briefly comprising of Two Reception Rooms, Modern Kitchen, Three Good Size Bedrooms, Family Bathroom and Rear Garden.
£550 PCM

Tipton

Cupfields Avenue
Two bedroom end terrace property. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom and Separate WC, Front and Rear Gardens and Off Road Parking. Available Immediately.
£550 PCM

West Bromwich

Alexandra Crescent
Semi-Detached Property which briefly comprises of Three Bedrooms, Reception Room, Kitchen, Bathroom and Large Gardens. Available End of November.
£575 PCM

Handsworth

Hall Road
Four bedroom terraced town house. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Central Heating and Double Glazing.
£575 PCM

Oldbury

Bromford Road
Executive Two Bedroom Modern Apartment located on the first floor of the block. The property briefly comprising of Two Bedrooms and Master having En Suite, Large Lounge, Modern Kitchen, Communal Parking, Double Glazing and Central Heating. Available from November for six months to long term.
£575 PCM

Email: enquiries@wortonkelly.com | Web: www.wortonkelly.com | 130 Walsall Road, Stone Cross, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 3HN.

Scriven & Co. team

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Chartered Valuation Surveyors and Estate Agents

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OLDBURY Tividale

Oakham Road
* Super family detached
* Four beds (master ensuite)
* Lounge * Dining
* Breakfast kitchen
* Utility * Cloakroom
* Views to rear

£284,950

OLDBURY

Castle Road West
* Well presented semi detached house
* Two reception rooms
* Extended kitchen/breakfast room
* Three bedrooms
* Bathroom with separate shower cubicle
* Delightful rear garden

£169,950

DUDLEY

Dudley Wood Avenue
* L shaped lounge/dining room
* Sun lounge
* Kitchen with oven/hob
* Three bedrooms
* Re-fitted bathroom with bath and shower
* Large garden
* Gas boiler heating radiators

Offers in the region of £165,000

QUINTON

Quinton Lane
* Much improved modernised semi
* Three bedrooms
* Living room
* Replanned kitchen/dining room
* Refitted kitchen
* Must be viewed

Offers in the region of £159,950

QUINTON

Stanfield Road
* Semi detached house
* three bedrooms
* through lounge
* extensive garden
* rear garage
* no upward chain

Offers in the region of £149,950

QUINTON

Upper Meadow Road
* Semi detached house
* three bedrooms
* side garage
* no upward chain

Offers in the region of £135,000

OLDBURY

Chester Rise
* Mid Terraced house
* Three bedrooms
* Modern Kitchen
* Rear Garden

Offers in the region of £112,950

OLDBURY

St. James Road
* Semi detached
* two bedrooms
* in need of general modernisation
* ideal for investors
* no upward chain

Offers in the region of £74,950

ROWLEY REGIS

136 Ross
* Modern semi-detached house
* 2 Bedrooms
* Bathroom with shower over bath
* DG windows & GCH
* Car space to front
* Enclosed rear garden

Monthly rent of £550

STOURBRIDGE Wordsley

9 Harrison Road
* Mid-terraced house
* Superior finish
* 2 Bedrooms
* Kitchen with appliances
* Bathroom with separate shower
* GCH & DG windows
* Low maintenance garden

Monthly rent of £530

HALESOWEN

Flat 17 The Grange Halesowen Road
* Second floor flat.* Two double bedrooms.* Gas central heating.* UPVC D/G windows* Communal gardens.* Garage.

Monthly rent of £525

OLDBURY

Flat 14 Henderson Court
Spacious 3rd floor maisonette* Three bedrooms* Part or Unfurnished available!* Kitchen with appliances* Living room with balcony* GCH & DG windows* DSS considered

Monthly rent of £435

ROWLEY REGIS

17 Allsops Close
* End-terraced house* One double bedroom with walk-in wardrobe* Kitchen with oven, hob & hood* Bathroom with shower* 2 Car-parking spaces* Attractive enclosed rear garden* DGW & Electric heating* Available now!

Monthly rent of £395

DUDLEY Tipton

19 Old Port Close
* First floor purpose-built flat
* Unfurnished but with furnished option * Open plan lounge/kitchen with door intercom
* Electric Shower over bath
* Cooker, washing machine, fridge.
* Allocated parking and heating

Monthly rent of £365

CRADLEY HEATH

Flat 16 Beechwood Court 437 Halesowen Road
* Bed-sit style flat* Large bedroom/living room* Fitted kitchen* Bathroom with shower* DG windows & NS heating* Attractive communal grounds & car-parking* Available now!

Monthly rent of £300

CRADLEY HEATH

34 Spinners End Drive
* Ground floor flat
* Bedroom with wardrobes
* DGW
* Electric heating
* Allocated parking space
* View now!

Monthly rent of £300

ROWLEY REGIS

6 & 6A Oldbury Road
For sale - investment
Double fronted retail premises with self-contained two bedroom flat above, occupying prominent corner position in Blackheath town centre close to Blackheath market and Wilkinsons store.

Offers in the region of £225,000

DUDLEY

Units 11, 12 & 13/14 Paganel Industrial Estate Turner Street
* 3 adjoining units comprising one block * capable of being made into single unit * total gia: 201.30 sq.m. (2,165 sq.ft.) * available separately (request details)
* 99 year lease with low ground rent.
* small estate with good security system

£150,000 plus VAT

A reputation built on 40 years of Quality, Professionalism and Expertise

0121 4299986 Hagley Road Office

Robert Oulsnam and Company
oulsnam

NEW

Dunsford Road, Bearwood
- Two Double Bed End Terrace
- Contemporary Styled
- Close to Amenities
- Spacious Bathroom
- Southerly Rear Garden
- Must be Viewed!

Offers in the region of £123,500

Katherine Road, Bearwood

NEW PRICE

- Delightful Traditional Terracee
- Character Features
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Lovely Rear Garden
- No Upward Chain

Offers in the region of £129,950

Trinder Road, Smethwick

NEW PRICE

- Well Presented Three Bed Semi
- Within Warley Woods Area
- Delightful Breakfast Kitchen
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Fully Alarmed
- Well Maintained Rear Garden

Offers in the region of £120,000

Smith Close, Smethwick

- Three Bedroom End Terrace
- Well Presented
- Conservatory
- No Chain

Offers in the region of £134,950

Lincoln Road, Smethwick

- A Charming Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Occupying a Corner Plot
- No Upward Chain

Offers in the region of £119,950

NEW

Rawlings Road, Bearwood
- A Charming Three Bedroom Terrace
- Deceptively Spacious
- Interconnecting Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor WC
- Generously Sized Garden with Summer House
- No Upward Chain

Offers in the region of £137,950

Perry Hill Road, Oldbury

- Comprehensively Refurbished
- Five Bedroom Semi
- En Suite to Master Bedroom
- Exceptional Garden

Offers in the region of £280,000

Lightwoods Hill, Bearwood

- A Beautifully Presented Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Opposite Lightwoods Park
- Separate Garage

Offers in the region £174,950

Westfield Road, Smethwick

- A Three Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Close to Local Schools
- No Upward Chain

Offers in the region of £109,950

NEW

Arden Road, Smethwick
- A Mid Terrace Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Deceptively Spacious
- Two Reception Rooms
- An Upstairs Study
- Pleasant Rear Garden

Offers in the region of £99,950

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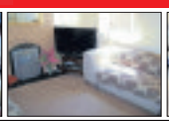
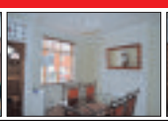
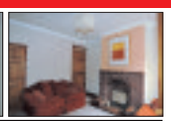
NEW PRICE



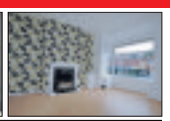
Church Road, Smethwick
- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Bedrooms
- Fully Furnished
- Ideal For Schools
- Close To Bearwood
- Must Be Viewed

£525 PCM

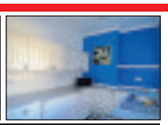
Oakwood Road, Smethwick
- Excellent Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Attic /Study Room
- Furnished
- Garage
- Must Be Viewed

£525 PCM



Three Shires Oak Road, Bearwood
- Attractive Mid Terrace
- Two Bedrooms
- Unfurnished
- Excellent Transport Links
- Off Bearwood High St.
- Must Be Viewed

£525 PCM



Richmond Road, Bearwood
- Excellent Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Part Furnished
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Off Bearwood High Street
- Excellent Transport Links

£550 PCM

Watsons Green Road, Dudley
- Attractive Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Unfurnished
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Central To Local Schools
- Short Walk To Dudley

£550 PCM

Overdale Road, Quinton
- Large Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Unfurnished
- Close To Harborne Golf Club
- Excellent Transport Links
- Close To Harborne Village

£550 PCM

Bishopton Road, Bearwood
- Excellent Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Unfurnished
- Off Bearwood High Street
- Sought After Location
- Must Be Viewed

£625 PCM

Quinton Road West, Quinton
- Excellent Family Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Semi Detached
- Unfurnished
- Newly Refurbished
- Garage & Driveway

£675 PCM

Ormsby Court, Edgbaston
- Beautiful Apartment
- 1st Floor
- Two Bedrooms
- Part Furnished
- Close To Harborne
- Sought After Location

£795 PCM

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connecting people with property

Period property appeal with contemporary interior design

Clifton Road has been restyled by the present owners

A period three-bedroom terraced property in one of the most sought-after locations of Tettenhall is for sale priced at £229,950.

The home in Clifton Road, say the agents, has been restyled by the present owners to create an attractive and contemporary interior whilst retaining the charm and appeal of a period property.

The gas centrally heated home now has an open plan living room with dining area, breakfast kitchen and cellar, while on the first floor is a master bedroom and bathroom with white suite, and on the second floor two more bedrooms.

On the ground floor the living room, 23ft by 12ft, has a marble style fireplace and hearth with gas fire and matching surround while the breakfast kitchen – 20ft by 6ft 8in – has a range of units including single drainer sink unit, cupboards with matching work tops, electric oven and gas hob with stainless steel extractor hood over, wall cupboards, breakfast bar and plumbing for washing machine.

On the first floor bedroom one is 12ft 1in by 11ft 9in with the bathroom of a panelled bath with shower, pedestal wash hand basin and WC, and on the second floor two bedrooms, one 11ft 10in by 11ft 3in and the other 10ft 8in by 9ft.

Outside the enclosed rear garden is mainly paved with a variety of shrubs and trees. Call the agent Thomas Harvey on 01902 758111.

Modern fixtures and colour schemes bring this house up to date

Wednesbury
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Great Barr
T: 0121 358 0021

Goodchilds
Estate Agents & Lettings

ANDREW ROAD TIPTON,
- Three Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

£695 PCM

CORONATION ROAD GREAT BARR
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended to Rear
- Fitted Kitchen/Utility
- Three Bedrooms

£625 PCM

Great Barr Hembs Crescent
- Extended Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms●Study
- Downstairs Shower and W.C.●Garage
- Fitted Kitchen●Upstairs Family Bathroom

£625 PCM

HAWTHORN ROAD KINGSTANDING
- A three bedroom detached family home
- Porch, hallway, lounge, dining room
- Kitchen, bathroom
- Gas central heating and uPVC double glazing

£615 PCM

BRUNSWICK PARK ROAD WEDNESBURY,
- Three Bedrooms
- Detached House
- Downstairs WC
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating

£550 PCM

Birdbrook Road Great Barr
- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms●Kitchen
- Lean-to/Utility●Family Bathroom
- Part Double Glazed & Gas Central Heating

£500 PCM

HAWKSWOOD DRIVE, WEDNESBURY
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Gas central heating
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£495 PCM

CATHERTON CLOSE TIPTON,
- Two Bedrooms
- Semi Detached House
- Fully Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Off Road Parking
- Front & Rear Gardens

£495 PCM

We have the process for letting houses all wrapped up

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6 months rent guarantee

TAME STREET, HILL TOP
- Two Bedrooms
- Secure Buzzer Entrance
- Allocated Off Road Parking
- Entrance Hallway
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 PCM

Walsall Smiths Flour Mill
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
- Electric Heating●D.Glazing
- Off Road Parking●Secure Entrance
- Sorry no DHSS●Close to Walsall Town

£475 PCM

HURST LANE, TIPTON
- Two Bedrooms
- First Floor
- Entrance Hallway
- Allocation Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 PCM

OLD COURT HOUSE, DUDLEY
- Two bedrooms
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Bathroom
- Off Road Parking

£450 PCM

DURHAM ROAD WEDNESBURY
- Semi Detached House
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Newly Fitted Bathroom

£450 PCM

LOWER HIGH STREET, WEDNESBURY
- Three Bedrooms
- Private Entrance
- Fully Fitted Kitchen Diner
- Sorry No DHSS

450 PCM

Walsall West Bromwich Road
- Two Bed Terraced House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen ● Utility
- Family Bathroom ● Rear Garden
- Double Glazing & Central Hetaing

£425 PCM

PINFOLD STREET DARLASTON
- 2 Bedroom Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom

£395 PCM

WESTBOURNE COURT, DARLASTON
- Two Bedroom Flat
- Double Glazing
- Fantastic Condition
- Seperate Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

£395 PCM

KINGS HILL MEWS, DARLASTON
- One Bedroom
- Lounge with Dining Area
- Seperate Fitted Kitchen
- Part Furnished
- Off Road Parking

£395 PCM

PHOENIX RISE, WEDNESBURY
- One Bedroom
- First Floor
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

£330 PCM

TALBOT HOUSE, WEDNESBURY
- One Bedroom
- Good Condition
- Shared Parking
- Town Centre Location
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£325 PCM

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Offices located in:
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Traditional values, modern techniques

DEREK SPIRES ESTATE AGENTS

FLORENCE ROAD, OLDBURY

- Internal inspection highly recommended
- Two reception rooms
- Three bedrooms
- Ensuite shower room
- House bathroom
- Off street parking
- Private rear garden
- Side garage

Offers based on £189,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

GRAFTON ROAD, OLDBURY

- A traditional semi
- 2 reception rooms
- 3 bedrooms
- Fore and rear gardens
- Garage to rear
- Requiring general improvement

Offers based on £109,950

Viewing: Oldbury Office

NEW

WEST PARK ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Sought after location directly facing West Smethwick Park
- Traditional style freehold substantial semi-detached residence
- Deceptively spacious family accommodation
- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- Four double bedrooms and tiled fully fitted bathroom with individual shower
- Impressive hall, two reception rooms and

Offers based on £269,500

Viewing via Bearwood Office

REDUCED

PARKFIELD ROAD, OLDBURY

- Traditional semi, desirable locality
- Three bedrooms, 2 Reception rooms
- Extended kitchen, well planned garden
- Double garage to rear
- Internal inspection highly recommended
- Double Glazed
- Gas Central Heating

Offers based on £137,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

DURHAM ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS

- Internal inspection recommended
- Ideal first purchase
- 2 bedrooms
- Open plan lounge/kitchen
- Allocated car parking
- Freehold.

Offers based on £84,950

Viewing: Oldbury Office

BIRCH ROAD, OLDBURY

Situated in this popular location a modern link detached property being close to both the Wolverhampton Road and Hagley Road West at Quinton, offering gas centrally hated and PVC double glazed accommodation to include three bedrooms, bathroom, hall, spacious lounge, dining room, study, kitchen/breakfast room, downstairs cloakroom, ground floor shower room, garage and neatly laid out garden to the rear, having the benefit of off-street parking to the front for up to four cars, with comprehensive day-to-day amenities close at hand and providing ideal family accommodation.

Offers based on £214,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

RAVENSHAW ROAD, EDGBASTON

- Semi-detached property
- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- Centrally heated
- Virtually double glazed throughout
- Three bedrooms and shower room
- Front lounge & open plan sitting/dining room
- Kitchen, lean-to and side utility
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Off-street parking for two-three cars

Offers based on £219,950

Viewing via: Bearwood Office

274 TENNAL ROAD, HARBORNE

- Pleasant established residential location
- Much improved traditional freehold residence
- Centrally heated and double glazed
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall, dining room and spacious lounge
- Good size kitchen
- Gardens and off-street parking
- Easy reach Harborne Village
- Good access City Centre

Offers based on £159,500

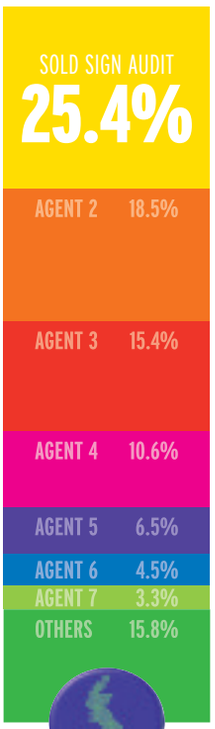
Viewing: Bearwood Office

LABURNUM AVENUE, SMETHWICK

- Substantial extended end town house
- Centrally heated and double glazed
- Easy access to Bearwood and Smethwick town centres
- Four bedrooms and bathroom to first floor
- Two reception rooms, dining room, kitchen, downstairs shower room and conservatory
- Off-street parking for four cars

Offers based on £157,500

Viewing: Bearwood Office



*DEREK SPIRES ESTATE AGENTS WAS THE ESTATE AGENT WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF SOLD SIGNS DISPLAYED BETWEEN THE DATES SHOWN. THIS IS THE AVERAGE RESULT OF THESE SURVEYS.

independenceassured

For Sale Sign Analysis confirms that this advert is a fair and accurate representation of the information found between the dates shown. The quantity of For Sale and Sold signs does not necessarily equate to the number of completions.

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forsale SIGN ANALYSIS

SUPPLIERS OF INDEPENDENT MARKET SHARE REPORTS THROUGHOUT ENGLAND AND WALES

FOWLER CLOSE, SMETHWICK

- Freehold detached property
- Located close to Smethwick High Street
- Central heating and PVC double glazing
- 3 bedrooms and bathroom
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Hall, lounge and open plan dining/kitchen
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Off-street parking for two cars

Offers based on £149,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

25 LEAHOUSE ROAD, OLDBURY

- Freehold corner semi-detached residence
- Close to main Wolverhampton Road
- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Three bedrooms & fully tiled shower room
- Hall, dining room and lounge
- Kitchen and utility
- Side garage & gardens to front and rear
- Off-street parking for two cars

Offers based on £149,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

STANMORE ROAD, EDGBASTON

- Ground floor converted flat
- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- Gas centrally heated
- Double bedroom
- Lounge and kitchen
- Shower room
- Communal gardens

Offers based on £48,500

Viewing Bearwood Office

11 LOXLEY ROAD, BEARWOOD

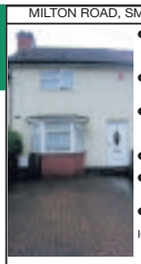
- Immaculate and most carefully maintained
- Double glazing, central heating and burglar alarm
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted bathroom
- Hall, lounge, separate dining room & fitted kitchen
- Mature well stocked gardens
- Sought after residential location

Offers based on £162,500

Viewing: Bearwood Office

REDUCED

MILTON ROAD, SMETHWICK



- Centrally heated and mostly PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall, spacious lounge & kitchen/breakfast room
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Off-street parking
- IDEALLY SUITED FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS

Offers based on £84,950

Viewing: Bearwood

NEW

15 ANDERSON ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Traditional freehold terraced villa
- Gas centrally heated and part double glazed
- Many original features to include fireplaces, windows, etc.
- FOUR double bedrooms
- Spacious well appointed bathroom with individual shower
- Attractive lounge, dining/kitchen and separate laundry/utility room
- Ornamental garden at rear

Offers based on £154,500

Viewing via Bearwood Office.

CEMETERY ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Traditional style terraced villa
- Much improved and well presented
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Three bedrooms & washroom/WC to the first floor
- Two living rooms, good size kitchen and fully tiled bathroom downstairs
- Laid out gardens to front and rear
- INSPECTION ESSENTIAL

Offers based on £110,000

Viewing: Bearwood Office

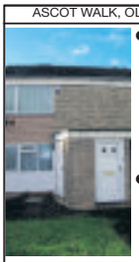
GLADYS ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Freehold mid-terraced property
- Close to Bearwood High Street
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall, dining room and lounge
- Kitchen and small utility
- IDEALLY SUITED FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS

Offers based on £104,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

ASCOT WALK, OLDBURY



- First floor flat, spacious lounge, kitchen
- Double bedroom, gardens, garage.

Offers based on £59,950

Viewing: Oldbury Office

ABBEY ROAD, BEARWOOD

Freehold corner terraced property

- Close to Warley Woods & Bearwood High Street
- Centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two bedrooms and bathroom to first floor
- Two reception rooms and dining room
- Kitchen and small laundry
- Study/Bedroom 3 with en-suite shower room
- Garage and off-street parking to front
- Potential for parking/extension to the side, subject to planning consent
- FAMILY ACCOMMODATION or potential investment

Offers based on £189,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

NEW

ALEXANDER ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Freehold end town house
- Centrally heated
- Three bedrooms and bathroom with shower
- Hall, lounge and kitchen/breakfast room IDEALLY SUITED FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS
- Easy reach of Warley Woods

Offers based on £99,950

Viewing via Bearwood Office

EDWARD ROAD, SMETHWICK

- End terraced villa
- Close to Smethwick High Street
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge and kitchen/breakfast room
- Downstairs bathroom
- IN NEED OF MODERNISATION

Offers based on £79,000

Viewing via Bearwood Office

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www.skitts.net

Tipton & Great Bridge

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(option 2)

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Wednesfield

☎ 01902 732324

wednesfield@skitts.net

Willenhall Bilston
Walsall / Bloxwich
Wednesbury Sedgley

NEW

Walsall
Monmouth Road

- Two bed semi
- DG & GCH
- Hall & Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with shower
- Gardens and parking

£495pcm

Tipton
Colville Close

- Four Bed Detached House
- GCH & DG. Conservatory
- Fitted kitchen
- Master Bedroom with en suite
- Private rear gardens
- ORP

£675pcm

Dudley
High Park Close

- Three bedroom family home
- Kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with bath & seperate shower
- GCH & DG. Garage
- Private garden

£595pcm

West Bromwich
Tame Street

- Three bed detached house
- CH & DG
- Private rear garden
- Kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with shower
- ORP

£595pcm

Wednesbury
Hawkswood Drive

- Substantially extended three bed semi detached
- Lounge. Fitted kitchen
- GCH & DG. Conservatory
- Bathroom with bath & shower cubicle
- Garage & driveway

£595pcm

Dudley
Forest Road

- Three bed semi detached house
- Tranquil position backing onto woodland
- CH & DG. Open plan lounge
- Separate dining room. Fitted kitchen
- Garage and parking space

£575 pcm

Willenhall
Princethorpe Road

- Three bed modern townhouse
- GCH & DG. ORP
- Kitchen with oven and hob
- Bath and shower facilities
- Enclosed rear gardens

£575pcm

Bilston
Great Bridge Road

- Three bed semi detached house
- Refurbished accommodation
- Kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with bath & shower
- ORP & garage

£550pcm

Tipton
Ferguson Drive

- Two Bed mid terrace
- GCH & DG
- Kitchen with appliances
- Rear Garden

£525pcm

Wednesbury
Crown Court

- Two Bed Semi
- Kitchen/diner with cooker
- Bathroom with shower
- ORP

£495pcm

Coseley
Julie Croft

- Two bed semi
- Unfurnished
- Kitchen/diner with appliances
- Bathroom with shower and bath
- CH & PDG
- Enclosed rear garden

£475pcm

Bilston
Bradley Lane

- Three bed semi
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- CH and DG
- Bathroom with shower

£475pcm

Housing Benefits Considered

Coseley
Bank Street

- Attractive cottage style terraced house
- Two spacious bedrooms
- Central heated
- Lounge, seperate sitting room
- Fitted kitchen
- Useful storage cellar
- Bathroom with shower
- Landscaped garden
- Viewing Highly Recommended

£475pcm

Willenhall
Sandbeds Road

- Two bed mid terrace
- Unfurnished. GCH
- Bathroom with bath & shower
- Fitted kitchen
- Alarmed
- Paved Courtyard

£450pcm

Willenhall
Gipsy Lane

- Two bed detached bungalow
- CH & DG
- Unfurnished
- Bathroom with separate shower cubicle
- Rear garden with shed
- Off road parking

£450pcm

Rowley Regis
Fallow Field Road

- Two double bedrooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- GCH and DG
- Unfurnished
- Bathroom with Bath and Shower Facilities
- Rear Garden

£450pcm

Bilston
Ambleside Close

- Modernised one bed town house
- Luxuriously appointed lounge
- Fully fitted dining kitchen
- Part furnished
- Bathroom with bath & shower
- Allocated parking

£435pcm

West Bromwich
Greets Green Road

- Two bed terraced house
- GCH & DG
- Modern Kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- Available Immediately

£400pcm

Bilston
Wallace Road

- Two bed flat
- First floor
- Unfurnished
- GCH & DG
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with bath
- Driveway & rear garden

£395pcm

Willenhall
Bow Street

- Two bed terrace
- Central heated
- Lounge
- Re-fitted kitchen
- Bathroom
- Rear garden

£395pcm

Coseley
Horace Street

- Second floor one bed apart
- GCH
- Kitchen with appliances
- Double bedroom

£390pcm

Dudley
Viewfield Crescent

- One bed first floor apartment
- Double glazed
- Kitchen with oven & fridge
- Bathroom

£375pcm

Coseley
Roseville Court

- Attractive SF flat
- Two bedrooms
- Kitchen with appliances
- Spacious living room
- Bathroom with shower
- Convenient to Coseley village

£375pcm

Coseley
Roseville Court

- Two bed self contained flat
- Electric heated & double glazed
- Fitted kitchen
- Lounge with laminate flooring
- Bathroom with bath & electric shower
- Communal car parking

£350pcm

Dudley
Bilston Street

- One bed maisonette
- Popular location
- Fitted kitchen
- Double bedroom
- Bathroom

£350pcm

Great Bridge
Market Place

- Spacious one bed flat
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Close to local amenities
- Fitted bathroom
- Close to motorway network
- Gas central heated
- Viewing Highly Recommended

£350pcm

Kingswinford
Ragees Road

- Charming one bed ground floor studio flat
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Furnished
- Bathroom with shower cubicle
- Double glazed throughout
- Kitchen with appliances

£350pcm

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Countrywide

MALLARD DRIVE, OLDBURY
NEW

£59,950
• TWO BEDROOMS • LOUNGE • FITTED KITCHEN • REAR GARDEN
••• 50% SHARED OWNERSHIP •••

DINGLE STREET, OLDBURY
WAS £79,950

£77,500
• TWO BEDROOMS • GROUND FLOOR • LOUNGE • FITTED KITCHEN • ALLOCATED PARKING SPACE • ELECTRIC HEATING • DOUBLE GLAZING

SUMMER ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS

£84,950
• TWO BEDROOMS • END TERRACE • LOUNGE • FITTED KITCHEN • UTILITY ROOM • CENTRAL HEATING • DOUBLE GLAZED • NO CHAIN

CLAYPIT LANE, WEST BROMWICH
WAS £119,950

£110,000
• TWO BEDROOMS • END TERRACE • LOUNGE • FITTED KITCHEN • FRONT DRIVEWAY • REAR GARDEN • CENTRAL HEATING • DOUBLE GLAZING

BODENHAM ROAD, OLDBURY
NEW

£114,950
• THREE BEDROOMS • END OF TERRACE • LOUNGE • FITTED KITCHEN • CONSERVATORY • FRONT DRIVEWAY • NO CHAIN

BRISTNALL HALL LANE, OLDBURY

£115,000
• THREE BEDROOMS • LOUNGE • FITTED KITCHEN • FRONT DRIVEWAY • GARAGE • REAR GARDEN • NO CHAIN

ELIZABETH CRESCENT, OLDBURY
NEW

£119,950
• THREE BEDROOMS • LOUNGE • FITTED KITCHEN • CONSERVATORY • GUEST W.C • REAR GARDEN • NO CHAIN

MAYFIELD ROAD, HALESOWEN
WAS £149,950

£129,950
• THREE BEDROOMS • MID TERRACED • TWO RECEPTION ROOMS • FITTED KITCHEN • FAMILY BATHROOM • REAR GARDEN • FRONT DRIVEWAY • GARAGE • NO CHAIN

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MACDONALD CLOSE, OLDBURY

£140,000
• THREE BEDROOM • TOWN HOUSE • LOUNGE/DINER • FITTED KITCHEN • UTILITY ROOM • SHOWER ROOM • EN-SUITE BEDROOM •GARAGE

HIGHBURY AVENUE, ROWLEY REGIS
WAS £159,950

£150,000
• THREE BEDROOM • LOUNGE/DINER • FITTED KITCHEN • UTILITY ROOM • GUEST W.C • CONSERVATORY • OFF ROAD PARKING

JACMAR CRESCENT, OLDBURY
NEW

£154,950
• THREE BEDROOMS • TWO RECEPTION ROOMS • FITTED KITCHEN • UTILITY ROOM • GUEST W.C • FRONT DRIVEWAY • GARAGE

DUDLEY ROAD EAST, OLDBURY
WAS £230,000

£179,999
• FIVE BEDROOMS • END TERRACED • TWO RECEPTION ROOMS • FITTED KITCHEN • TWO BATHROOMS • DETACHED SIDE GARAGE • FRONT DRIVEWAY • OFF ROAD PARKING • CENTRAL HEATING • DOUBLE GLAZING

ASHES ROAD, OLDBURY
NEW

£189,950
• THREE/FOUR BEDROOM • DETACHED BUNGALOW • TWO RECEPTION ROOMS • FITTED KITCHEN • FRONT DRIVEWAY • GARGAE • REAR GARDEN • NO CHAIN

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD SOUTH, QUINTON
NEW

£199,950
• THREE BEDROOMS • EXTENDED • LOUNGE/DINER • FITTED KITCHEN • FRONT DRIVEWAY • GARAGE • REAR GARDEN • NO CHAIN

POOL LANE, OLDBURY
NEW

£249,950
• SIX BEDROOMS • EXTENDED • TWO RECEPTION ROOMS • FITTED KITCHEN • GUEST W.C • TWO BATHROOMS • EN-SUITE • FRONT DRIVEWAY

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, OLDBURY

£259,950
• EXTENDED FOUR BEDROOM • SEMI DETACHED • FULL REFURBISHED • MUST BE VIEWED • OPEN PLAN FULLY FITTED KITCHEN DINER • LOUNGE, NEW FITTED KITCHEN, GUEST W.C

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Oldbury 0121 552 6171

team

NEW
OLDBURY

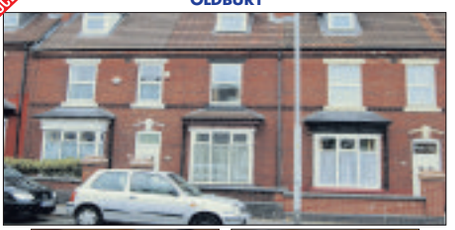
POTTERY ROAD
Deceptively spacious and well presented traditional semi-detached house close to Warley Woods. Double glazing and gas central heating throughout. Porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, utility, downstairs toilet, three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage and parking. Established gardens.

Offers in the region of £184,950

NEW
OLDBURY

KENDAL RISE
Deceptively spacious detached family residence offering well planned accommodation. Occupying a sought after location in a quiet cul-de-sac off Moat Road and close to Barnford Park. Vestibule, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility/verandah, three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage and parking. Front and rear gardens.

Offers in the region of £149,950

REDUCED
OLDBURY


VICARAGE ROAD
A three storey mid terraced residence requiring some improvement and modernisation. Shared tunnel entry to side entrance, inner hallway stores off, two reception rooms, kitchen, lobby, bathroom. Stairs to three bedrooms. and also from first floor to additional attic room, central heating and double glazing where specified

REDUCED BY £7,000

Offers in the region of £99,950

NEW
OLDBURY

IVY HOUSE ROAD
Traditional semi-detached house in need of improvement and modernisation. Replacement double glazing and gas central heating (where specified) Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, dining room, downstairs toilet, storage shed, three bedrooms, bathroom. Off road parking and rear garden.

Offers in the region of £82,950

OLDBURY

FARM AVENUE
Traditional semi-detached house. In need of general updating and modernisation. Replacement double glazing and part gas central heating.Porch, entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage and parking. Large rear garden.

Offers in the region of £139,950

OLDBURY

VICARAGE STREET
A deceptively spacious well appointed and fitted inner terraced property. Shared tunnel access to inner hall, two reception rooms and dining area, kitchen, bathroom, seperate W.C. Stairs extending to first floor landing, three bedrooms, central heating and double glazing where specified, rear garden

Offers in the region of £124,950

TIPTON

TIVIDALE STREET
A modern mid town house. Hardwood entrance door to reception hall stores and kitchen leading off, lounge with feature fireplace. Stairs from hall to first floor landing, two bedrooms (master with fitted wardrobes) bathroom shower over bat, central heating, double glazing, off road parking, rear garden

Offers in the region of £89,995

WEST BROMWICH

WEST GATE PLAZA
Spacious modern first floor apartment situated within this sought after location. Double glazing, gas central heating and redecorated throughout. Communal entrance, reception hall, kitchen, lounge, bathroom, airing cupboard, double bedroom. Secure parking.

Offers in the region of £64,950

OLDBURY

OLDACRE ROAD
An opportunity to acquire a 50% share of a retirement bungalow front entrance door opening onto L shaped reception hall, lounge with feature fireplace, kitchen, two bedrooms, shower room, central heating and double glazing where specified, rear garden having timber sheds, shared driveway to front

Offers in the region of £64,950

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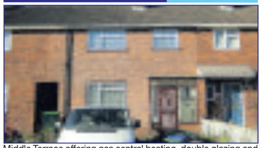
Manby Street, Tipton — NEW



Middle Terrace offering gas central heating, double glazing and no upward chain. Spacious family accommodation briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, through lounge, kitchen, outhouse, 3 bedrooms, shower room, driveway to front and rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £79,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Oxford Way, Tipton — NEW

Ideal first time purchase whilst offering upvc double glazing, gas central heating and situated in a sought after cul de sac location. Superbly presented accommodation for which viewing is strongly recommended whilst briefly comprising, reception area, lounge, inner hallway, guest cloakroom, fitted breakfast kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, side driveway, garage and attractive rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £116,995
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Wednesbury Oak Road, Tipton — NEW

Extended Semi Detached situated in a most sought after location. Offering double glazing, gas central heating, extension to side, no upward chain and superbly presented accommodation which briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, through lounge, conservatory, fitted kitchen / dining room, 3 bedrooms, modern shower room, excellent side garage, crete print driveway and attractive gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £157,500
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Steven Drive, Bilston — NEW

Modern Semi detached offering upvc double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. Reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, en suite shower room, family bathroom, garage and gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £124,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Elm Road, Dudley — NEW

End Terrace in need of repair / attention. Reception hall, downstairs bathroom, lounge, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, guest toilet, driveway and rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £74,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Benbeck Grove, Tipton

Modern Detached Bungalow which has been superbly upgraded, beautifully presented and situated in a quiet cul de sac location on the Tipton/Woodsetton Border. Offering upvc double glazing, gas central heating and must view spacious accommodation which briefly comprises, reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, inner hallway, fitted kitchen (built in appliances), 2 bedrooms (fitted wardrobes), large conservatory, luxury shower room, block paved driveway with secure gates, side garage plus utility area and most attractive rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £199,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Wynn-Griffith Drive, Tipton — REDUCED

Modern Link Detached offering upvc double glazing, gas central heating and occupying a corner plot. Superbly presented accommodation briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, side driveway, side garage and attractive paved rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £139,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Oval Road, Tipton — REDUCED

End Terrace offering gas central heating, upvc double glazing and no upward chain. Spacious family accommodation briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, sitting room, kitchen, outhouse / w.c. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet, driveway and large rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £77,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

New Road, Tipton — NEW

Traditional end terrace in need of repair / attention. Offering upvc double glazing and briefly comprising, porch, reception hall, lounge, sitting room / kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom and gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £74,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Welch Close, Tipton — REDUCED

Modern semi detached bungalow offering upvc double glazing, gas central heating and disabled friendly accommodation. Superbly presented whilst briefly comprising, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, 3 car driveway to front and attractive rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £122,500
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

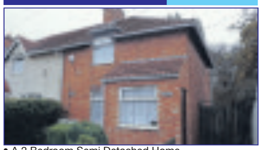
Lara Grove, Tipton — NEW

Modern Semi detached offering gas central heating and no upward chain. Situated in a sought after cul de sac location, whilst briefly comprising, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, driveway to front and rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £94,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Bridge Avenue, Tipton

PUBLIC NOTICE: Paul dubberley and co are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £57,500 for 3 bridge avenue, tipton, west midlands DY4 0jp. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact, paul dubberley and co, 73 great bridge, tipton, west midlands dy4 7hf. 0121 522 3733 before exchange of contratcs.
OFFERS AROUND: £47,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Vimy Terrace, Wednesbury — NEW



- A 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Quiet & Secluded Cul-de-Sac Location
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)
- Storm Porch & Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

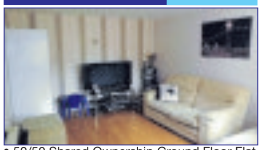
Bilston, Castleview Road

SOLD IT! Subject to Contract

- A 2 Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- No Chain!
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Private Garden to The Rear

OFFERS AROUND: £55,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Cinder Way, Wednesbury — NEW



- 50/50 Shared Ownership Ground Floor Flat
- Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location
- Double Glazing
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £35,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

York Crescent, Wednesbury — NEW

- An Extended Traditional 3 Bedroom Semi
- Cul-de-Sac Location
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain!

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Knowles Street, Wednesbury — REDUCED

- An Executive 4 Bedroom Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)
- Corner Plot
- Reception Hall & Guest WC

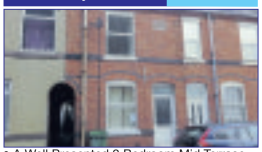
OFFERS AROUND: £185,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Red House Avenue, Wednesbury

- A Refurbished & Spacious 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- No Chain! & Cul-de-Sac Location
- Storm Porch & Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

All Saints Road, Wednesbury — NEW



- A Well Presented 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing (As specified)
- No Upward Chain!

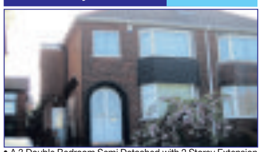
OFFERS AROUND: £54,950
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Manifold Way, Wednesbury — NEW

- A Modern 1 Bedroom, 2nd Floor Apartment
- No Upward Chain!
- Great Investment Opportunity
- Communal Entrance

OFFERS AROUND: £45,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Church Hill, Wednesbury — NEW



- A 3 Double Bedroom Semi Detached with 2 Storey Extension
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Popular Location & No Upward Chain
- Reception Hal with Feature Open Plan Staircase

OFFERS AROUND: £124,995
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Myvod Road, Wednesbury — NEW

- An extended 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location

OFFERS OVER: £105,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Wednesbury, Blakedon Road

SOLD IT! Subject to Contract

- A 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- No Chain!
- F... Cul-de-Sac
- Gas Central Heating & Double GLazing (as spec.)

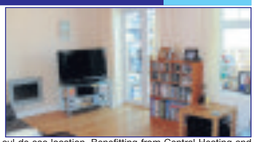
OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Myvod Road, Wednesbury

- A 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home Offering No Upward Chain
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)
- Reception Hall
- Lounge with Feature Louis Fireplace

OFFERS AROUND: £112,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Okehampton Drive — NEW



An Impressive, Well Presented Detached House with a quiet cul de sac location. Benefitting from Central Heating and Double Glazing. Good location for Schools, Shops and Transport Links. Accommodation Comprises- Porch, Hall with Guest Coaks/ WC, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Master Bedroom with Ensuite Shower Room/ WC, 2 Further Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Landscaped Rear Garden and Driveway Off Road Parking leading to Garage.
Viewing 0121 525 2111 £175,000

The Broadway, West Bromwich — REDUCED

An Extended Traditional Semi Detached House situated within a cul de sac. Benefitting From Central Heating, Double Glazing and Intruder Alarm. Accommodation Comprises- Integral Porch, Hall, Through Lounge/ Dining Room, Extended Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom/ WC, Rear Garden with potential rear vehicle access and Driveway Off Road Parking.
OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Alexandra Crescent, West Bromwich

A Spacious Semi Detached House which has been refurbished throughout including full rewire and replacement roof. Excellent location for local amenities including schools, shops and bus routes. Benefitting From Central Heating, Double Glazing and Intruder Alarm.
OFFERS IN EXCESS: £105,000
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

York Crescent, West Bromwich

A Well Presented Modern Semi Detached House within this popular development. Benefitting from Central Heating, Double Glazing and No Upward Chain. Accommodation Comprises- Hall, Guest Cloaks/ WC, Lounge/ Diner, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Master Bedroom with En Suite Shower Room/ WC, 2 Further Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Off Road Parking and Garage.
OFFERS AROUND: £147,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Willett Road, West Bromwich

An Extended Traditional Semi Detached House with excellent location for Schools, Transport Links and other Amenities. Benefitting from Recently Upgraded Central Heating and Double Glazing (Majority). No Upward Chain. Accommodation Comprises- Porch, Hall, Extended Lounge, Dining Room, Extended Kitchen, Utility with WC, 3 Bedrooms, Refitted Shower Room/ WC, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway and Garge.
OFFERS AROUND: £149,995
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

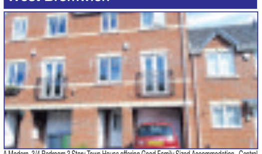
Thursfield Road, West Bromwich

An Impressively Refurbished and Modernised, Extended Traditional Semi Detached House. Benefitting from New Central Heating, New Double Glazing, Rewiring and Replastering. Accommodation Comprises- Hall, 3 Reception Rooms, Newly Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliances and WC off, 3 Bedrooms, Refitted Shower Room/ WC, Large Rear Garden with Block Paved Patio, Driveway Off Road Parking and Garage.
OFFERS AROUND: £199,995
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Temple Meadows Road, West Bromwich

A Delightful Extended Traditional Semi Detached House benefitting From Double Glazing, Central Heating (recently upgraded combi boiler) and Intruder Alarm. Excellent Location for Dartmouth Park and Sandwell Hospital. Accommodation Comprises- Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Verandah, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Front & Rear Gardens, 2 x Driveway Off Road Parking Spaces and Garage.
OFFERS AROUND: £179,995
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Meyrick Road, West Bromwich



A Modern, 3/4 Bedroom 3 Story Town House offering Good Family Sized Accommodation. Central Heating, Double Glazing and No Upward Chain. Accommodation Comprises- Hall with Guest Cloaks WC, Utility, Ground Floor Bedroom, Landing with WC, Lounge, 'L' Shaped Kitchen Diner, Master Bedroom with En suite, 2 further Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Rear Garden, Driveway and Garage.
OFFERS AROUND: £139,995
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Nelson Street, West Bromwich

Ideal for those looking for more space than your average 2 Bedroom Semi Detached. Extension Potential (Subject to Planning Permission). Benefitting from Double Glazing, Intruder Alarm and No Upward Chain. Accommodation Comprises- Porch, Hall, Lounge, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Rear Garden and Gated Off Road Parking for up to 3 Cars.
OFFERS AROUND: £117,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Oak Lane, West Bromwich

Priced for a Quick Sale. A 2 Bedroom Mid Terraced House benefitting from Central Heating and Double Glazing. Accommodation Comprises- 2 Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom/ WC, 2 Bedrooms, Rear Garden. Excellent Town Centre Location.
OFFERS AROUND: £77,000
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Livingstone Road, West Bromwich

An Excellent Opportunity for First Time Buyers or Buy to Let Investors. A Modern 2 Bedroom Mid Terraced House offering Central Heating, Double Glazing, Intruder Alarm and No Upward Chain. Entrance Porch, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Gardens to Front & Rear and Allocated Parking Space.
OFFERS IN EXCESS OF: £79,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

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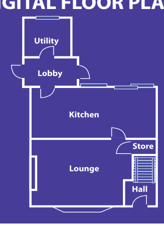

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

New Seat compact has a pedigree

The Ibiza Cupra is powered by a 1.4-litre TSI petrol engine

SEAT has introduced the Ibiza Cupra. Shown first as a concept during April's Beijing International Automotive Exhibition, the Cupra is now unveiled in barely touched production form.

The Ibiza Cupra is a package that's simultaneously compact and versatile, making it an extremely compelling day-to-day performance car. Performance is scintillating, with a 0-62mph time of just 6.9 seconds and a top speed of 142mph, yet it is exceptionally efficient, with average fuel consumption of 47.9 mpg.

Due to arrive in the UK in January 2013 priced at £18,825, with order books opening next week, the new Ibiza Cupra follows more than 16 years of heritage. The Cupra name was born in 1996 as a special, top-of-the-line Ibiza built to commemorate Seat's World Rally Championship victory in the 2.0-litre category. Since then a Cupra has always featured in the Seat model line-up, with the name adorning both the Ibiza and Leon ranges.

Supercharger

Powered by a 1.4-litre TSI petrol engine that develops 180PS and 250Nm, owing to a turbocharger and a supercharger as well as direct injection, the latest Ibiza Cupra is truly worthy of the name, and begins the next chapter of the Cupra success story.

The state-of-the-art TSI power unit is a compact piece of hi-tech equipment that guarantees exceptionally refined performance during day-to-day driving, while a unique sound actuator in the exhaust system allows for an extra sporty sound when the driver desires it. And for extra driver involvement, the seven-speed DSG twin-clutch automatic transmission, with its extremely short shift times, can be operated via paddles mounted behind the steering wheel.

The chassis of the Ibiza Cupra has been tuned for maximum agility and precision. The ride height has been lowered compared to the standard car, and an optional AP Performance braking system is available, offering remarkable stopping power.

An XDS electronic differential lock reduces the tendency to understeer and improves handling through fast corners, and an ESP electronic stability system incorporating hill start is part of the safety package that comes as standard on the Ibiza Cupra; the car has been awarded the maximum five stars in the Euro NCAP crash test.

Integrated

The edgy lines of the standard-fit bi-xenon lights are typical of the new Seat design language, while being perfectly integrated into the Ibiza's sculptural form.

The LED daytime running lights trace the line of the headlamps to deliver a unique light signature, as do the LED rear lights. The bi-xenon headlamp technology delivers perfect illumination, while cornering lights are integrated into the large fog lamps.

The side view of the three-door coupé is brought to life by the sharply defined lines and edges, with the muscular rear shoulders and exclusive 17in wheels underscoring the car's dynamics.

The black, high-gloss exterior mirrors provide a clear contrast to the paintwork of the Ibiza Cupra, while the powerful rear end underscores once again the special role of the Ibiza Cupra as the new benchmark for compact cars – a broad bumper frames the substantial, matte black diffuser incorporating the trapezoidal exhaust outlet.

The emotional power of the exterior design is repeated in the interior of the Ibiza Cupra, in its extremely minimalist, clearly structured cockpit; the exceptional feeling of quality, the ergonomic excellence and the precision of the workmanship all underscore Seat's dedication to detail. The new sports steering wheel features the Cupra logo, and the shift paddles for the DSG transmission are within easy reach of the driver's fingertips. Additionally, the Cupra features unique sports seats with optional two-colour leather upholstery.

The entertainment system in the Ibiza Cupra is completely new – the high-performance audio system is enhanced by the innovative Seat Portable System. The highly functional unit, which debuted in the Mii city car, is removable for mobile use yet perfectly integrated into the vehicle electronics system. Its extensive functions include a navigation system, Bluetooth audio streaming, a Micro SD card slot for music storage, hands-free phone system with voice control, and an on-board computer.

As the flagship car of the Ibiza range, the Cupra gets a number of standard equipment items over and above the Ibiza FR, which itself is a generously equipped model.

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Fuel consumption figures for the new CR-V Range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 28.0 - 43.5 (10.1 - 6.5),Extra Urban 43.5 - 55.4 (6.5 - 5.1), Combined 36.7 - 50.4 (7.7 - 5.6). CO_2 emissions: 180 - 149 g/km.

New CR-V range from £21,395 On The Road. **Model shown for illustrative purposes:** CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC EX Manual in Passion Red pearl at £29,400 On The Road including metallic paint.

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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (1/100km) for the new Kia Rio range are: Urban 33.6 (8.4) - 80.7 (3.5), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 44.1 (6.4) - 88.3 (3.2). CO2 emissions are 150 - 85 g/km; **for the cee'd range are:** Urban 34.0 (8.3) - 64.2 (4.4), Extra Urban 49.6 (5.7) - 78.5 (3.6), Combined 42.8 (6.6) - 72.4 (3.9). CO2 emissions are 158 - 103 g/km. Prices correct at time of going to press & specification is subject to change without notice. Pictures for illustration only. Offer subject to availability. We are licenced credit brokers. *£100 vouchers payable on delivery of the new vehicle, Excludes Fleet/Business customers. Valid until 31/10/12.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 32.5 – 55.4 (8.7 – 5.1), Extra Urban 54.3 – 76.3 (5.2 – 3.7), Combined 44.1 – 67.3 (6.4 – 4.2). CO2 emissions: 150 – 110g/km.

Model shown: Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Manual in non-metallic Milano Red at £16,955 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Civic registrations (excluding Civic Ti) from 19 September 2012 to 31 December 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. **Excess mileage charge:** 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Servicing:** Three years' complimentary servicing or 37,500 miles, whichever comes first and includes a maximum of three services. Complimentary servicing covers the manufacturer's scheduled servicing only

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Motorists should contact their local Vauxhall retailer for further information.

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excluding Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO_2 emissions: 324 - 88g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, Vauxhall Tech Line, New Astra Hatchback/Sports Tourer BiTurbo, Ampera and VXR8 models. Flexible Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Vauxhall Motor Finance RH1 1SR or Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. **Vauxhall Deposit Contribution excludes ADAM, Mokka and Corsa SXi models. ^Term can be from 24-60 months, except ADAM (24-48 months). Flexible Finance offer available on orders or registrations before 17 December 2012. †£500 Fuel offer when purchasing a new vehicle applies to orders between 16th and 19th November 2012. Fuel offer not available on ADAM models. Offers available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners, and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B supported units). All other customers are excluded. Available at participating Retailers only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit.

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11 plate Nissan Pixo 1.0 N-TEC, pas, cd, r/lock, a/c, e/windows, 5dr, silver, 5000 miles	£5999
60 plate Toyota Aygo 1.0 VVTi Blue, pas, cd, a/c, r/lock, e/windows, 3dr, blue, 9311 miles	£5999
58 plate Ford Focus 1.6 Style, pas, cd, e/windows, a/c, r/lock, 5dr, silver, 34012 miles	£5999
09 plate Peugeot 207 1.4S, pas, cd, r/lock, a/c, e/windows, abs, 3dr, grey, 30000 miles	£5999
59 plate Vauxhall Astra 1.4 Club, pas, cd, r/lock, a/c, e/windows, 5dr, blue, 35800 miles	£5999
10 plate Vauxhall Cora 1.2 SXi, pas, cd, r/lock, a/c, alloys, e/windows, 5dr, silver, 51375 miles	£5999
59 plate Ford Fusion 1.6 Zetec Auto, pas, alloys, a/c, r/lock, e/wndws, 5dr, tango red, 5387 m	£5999
60 plate Ford Ka 1.25 Studio, pas, cd, c/lock, abs, e/windows, red, 6300 miles	£5999
57 plate Vauxhall Astra 1.9 CDTi SRi Sport hatch, cd, a/c, alloys, e/wndws, abs, silver, 52882 m	£6299
60 plate Vauxhall Astra 1.6 SRi Sport hatch, cd, alloys, pas, a/c, r/lock, 3dr, silver, 43693 miles	£6499
09 plate Seat Ibiza 1.4 SE, pas, cd, a/c, alloys, r/lock, e/windows, 5dr, silver, 19149 miles	£6499
57 plate Alfa Romeo GT 1.9 D Lusso, pas, cd, r/lock, alloys, a/c, e/wndws, black, 37685 miles	£6499
60 plate Vauxhall Astra 1.6 SRi Sport hatch, cd, alloys, pas, a/c, r/lock, 3dr, blue, 45103 miles	£6499
08 plate Alfa Romeo 159 Turismo 1.9D, pas, cd, alloys, a/c, e/wndws, r/lock, 4dr, black, 46000 m	£6999
06 plate Jaguar S-Type 2.7 V6 Diesel SE, pas, cd, alloys, a/c, lthr trim, e/wndws, green, 78000 m	£6999
58 plate Ford Mondeo 1.8 TDCi Zetec Estate, pas, alloys, a/c, cd, r/lock, e/wndws, grey, 59009 m	£6999
59 plate Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec, pas, cd, r/lock, a/c, alloys, 5dr, red, 9000 miles	£6999
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61 plate Vauxhall Astra 1.3 CDTi Ecoflex Exclusive Est, a/c, r/lock, cd, e/wndws, black, 35972 m	£9999
60 plate Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 SRI Nav CDTi, cd, pas, r/lock, alloys, a/c, nav, 5dr, silver, 46349 m	£9999
59 plate Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Titanium X Sport Est, lthr trim, cd, alloys, a/c, r/lock, black, 89950 m	£9999
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*Not available on Expression, ES, Vauxhall Tech Line, New Astra Hatchback/Sports Tourer BiTurbo, Ampera and VXR8 models. Flexible Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Vauxhall Motor Finance RH11SR or Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. **Vauxhall Deposit Contribution excludes ADAM, Mokka and Corsa SXi models. ^Term can be from 24-60 months, except ADAM (24-48 months). Flexible Finance offer available on orders or registrations before 17 December 2012. †£500 Fuel offer when purchasing a new vehicle applies to orders between 16th and 19th November 2012. Fuel offer not available on ADAM models. Offers available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners, and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B supported units). All other customers are excluded. Available at participating Retailers only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit.

CHRONICLE MOTORING

City car that delivers on fuel economy

The Skoda Citigo is available in 60bhp and 75bhp engines

SKODA has introduced yet another vehicle to its expanding portfolio of excellent cars, the Citigo.

The vehicle, a city car, has very small exterior dimensions with exceptional interior space, offering ample accommodation for four adults. Add in great manoeuvrability, exceptional comfort and quite high levels of equipment, and Skoda says that the Citigo has been designed to deal with almost anything that life can throw at it.

The amount of space in the Citigo is very good. The room for four adults is contained in a vehicle a mere 3,540mm long and 1,640mm wide. I sat in the back with my wife and we were comfortable with sufficient head and shoulder room, and legroom, even behind a 6ft tall driver.

The boot is not over generous at 251 litres but there is enough room for the daily or weekly shopping.

Dynamics

One feature that the Citigo will reward you with is its ability to find car parking spaces. Spaces that you would normally think impossible, can swallow up the Citigo.

The driving dynamics are quite entertaining for such a small car. The engine is a three-cylinder 999cc and produces 60bhp. There is also an option of more power but the smaller derivative will enable you to reach 62mph in 14 seconds and it runs out of puff at 99mph. There is a 75bhp option available and this knocks a second off the 0-60 time and raises your top speed to about 106mph.

Fuel consumption figures claimed for both vehicles is in the region of mid-60s on the combined cycle. Phenomenal fuel figures are quoted, but as we all know these figures are achieved in laboratory conditions, but we should still be obtaining figures in the low-50s, which is exceptional.

The important CO2 figures are given as 105 and 108 respectively for the two power derivatives, so you can expect a low road fund licence, and this is another bonus to reduce motoring costs. Not quite nil rated, but not far away at a mere £20 per annum.

There are three versions available – S, SE and Elegance, entry level being the S with good, old fashioned wind-up windows, and sadly, no air conditioning. The SE is probably the model to go for. It has electric front windows, remote central locking, and manual air conditioning.

I really do not want a vehicle without central locking, with wind-up windows and without air conditioning, things that we now take for granted. So I would avoid the S level, although all the models have ABS and four air bags, and all models except the entry level have an Electronic Brake Sensor facility.

Sweetener

You have to make a further choice between a three-door and a five. It is always easier to get in and out of small city car when you have five doors.

My choice would be the five-door middle of the range SE. As a further sweetener towards downsizing and the Citigo, what about a five-door SE 999cc engine with an automatic gearbox? I don't think you could get a better small package.

Skoda has introduced what they say is a simple pricing structure, but I find it complicated. The entry level Citigo three-door is £7,630 and the top specification Citigo Elegance is £10,415. Skoda then gives you a list of various optional extras that you can build into your car.

All in all, the Citigo will win friends and with Skoda's reputation of being manufacturers of superb, reliable, quality vehicles. I see nothing but another success for the company.

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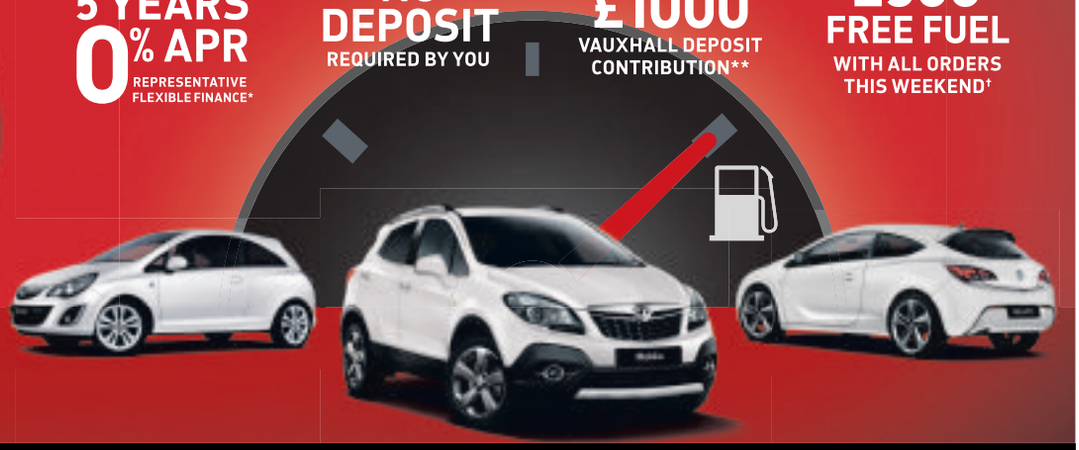

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BT57 YZR	2007/57	**ZAFIRA 1.6 BREEZE** Silver, 42,000 miles	£6295
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LM58 UEB	2008/58	**FORD FUSION + Estate Auto**. Black, 24,000 miles	£5495

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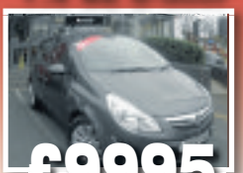

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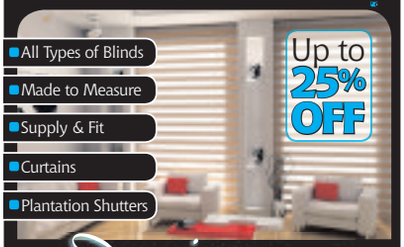

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christmas events

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Warley Woods Methodist Church, Abbey Road, Smethwick, B67 5LS.
Friday, November 16
7pm - 9pm and
Saturday, November 17
between 11.30am -1pm.
Santa's Grotto, lots of stalls, plus hot food.
Admission 30p.
On 128 Bus Route

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CHRISTMAS FAYRE
Saturday 17th November
11am to 1pm
Cakes, Crafts, Bargains Galore, Knitting Stall, Tombola, Refreshments.
Admission Free.

HILL TOP METHODIST CHURCH
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Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/12/55270	Mr Steve Clay YMCA Black Country Group	John Dando House 235 Hamstead Road Great Barr Birmingham B43 5EL	Proposed alterations and refurbishments of existing building and change of use from existing care home to 31 self contained dwellings and associated training/ administration rooms.

The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in the area in which it is situated.

DC/12/55257	Car Services and Testing Limited	Car Repairs And Testing Centre 36 Lower Church Lane Tipton DY4 7PG	Proposed extension to existing car park.

This is a major application.

DC/12/55292	Mr Gavin Hopkins Robert Hopkins Environmental Limited	Robert Hopkins And Son Limited Bullock Street West Bromwich B70 7HE	Variation of condition 9 of planning approval - DC/10/52747 - Proposed new building for waste treatment facility. Proposed condition to read - "All atmospheric emissions from the installation shall be managed in accordance with the conditions and mangement techniques stipulated by the Environmental Permit issued by the Environment Agency".

This is a major application.

DC/12/55300	Mr Ash Patel Ashish News Food And Wine	35 - 37 Carters Green West Bromwich B70 9QP	Proposed alterations and extensions to create 13 apartments above existing shop with associated car parking to rear.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

Mr Nick Bubalo
Area Director - Regeneration and Economy

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL (WOODS LANE, CRADLEY HEATH) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2012

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Borough Council of Sandwell, in order to facilitate maintenance work to Woods Lane Level Crossing by Network Rail, intends in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in Woods Lane, Cradley Heath.
2. The alternative route for vehicles will be via Chester Road, Cradley Road and vice-versa.
3. The Order will take effect on 1st December 2012, at 22.00 hrs, and it is anticipated that the works are expected to be completed by 2nd December 2012, at 11.00 hrs. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
4. Any queries about the works should be directed to Mark Woodward of Network Rail on 07810 005641.

DATED this 15th November 2012

N SHARMA

Director of Legal and Governance Services
Sandwell Council House,
Oldbury, West Midlands

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cars over £1500

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07581 454796.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 RUSH, 2005, 35,000 miles, one owner, service history, 3 door, black, long MoT and tax, vgc, £1,950 ono. 07951 334677.

RENAULT CLIO 16V
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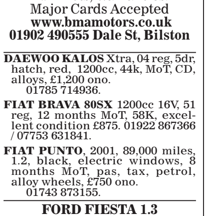

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(T&C's below)

HI I'm Natalie 24, pretty, friendly, single, seeking energetic man for romantic walks, cosy nights in and fun-loving relationship. Any age/looks/race. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397489**

TINA young attractive 27yr old single female looking for older friendly loving male for adult fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397563**

BEV 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397535**

TRACY 26, pretty petite brunette, possibly looking for LTR but definitely looking for fun times with outgoing guy. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397027**

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTM male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681**

LUCY beautiful big bottomed black female, very tactile, seeks mature honest white male for loving fun times. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397389**

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837**

NATASHA single professional 39yr old brunette looking for fun and friendship with genuine guy, 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719**

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127**

HI I'm Marilyn a blue eyed beauty. Call me if you have a happy outlook and are seeking some fun. Age/looks unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395665**

SUE confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397485**

MARIA French female looking for mutually convenient companionship, very friendly, very discreet and very interested in meeting with you! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397451**

PETITE 50yr old likes reading, gardening, outdoors, walking, cycling, seeks companion, 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393160**

KATHERINE 38, attractive, single, very lonely and looking for love, fun and male companionship. Pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397123**

TRISH tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves tlc, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397579**

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407**

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTM male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165**

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317**

ALICIA 19yr old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059**

I'M Julie 36yrs old, attractive, fit, blonde, solvent with OHAC seeking man to spoil and enjoy good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395051**

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883**

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501**

SUSIE gorgeously feminine and sensual, loves lazy summer days, misses male companionship WLTM someone with sense of adventure and lust for life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394117**

LOUISE youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392491**

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old girl looking for fun. Can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363277**

JOY 36 petite medium build, blue eyes, loves romantic walks, meals in/out, WLTM male 30-45 for meets. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386629**

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818**

CATHY is a slim attractive lady with an open minded attitude to life, she WLTM a man of any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395657**

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409**

WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013**

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893**

LADY young 60, outgoing, friendly, smart, likes cinema, shopping, meals out, seeks similar female friends for days out and evenings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387117**

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535**

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979**

39YR old single female, hurt in past, animal lover, likes most things, seeking genuine man for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386887**

KAREN witty female who loves to laugh, WLTM similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125**

CHRIS attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392401**

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, wltm tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395727**

MICHELLE attractive 30's female, blonde, leggy and very much single, seeking quality company, hopefully more with nice romantic male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395717**

SLIM male, seeks lady 35-45, size 12-18, GSOH for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394591**

CAROLINE 42yrs, slim attractive blonde. Varied interests and solvent. WLTM honest male of any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395675**

SINGLE MEN

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125.

(T&C's below).

GARY 39, seeks female, 30-50 for LTR and fun. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398747**

RAYMOND 6ft, mid 70's, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks caring lady for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398695**

63YR old male, fit, likes cooking/baking, tennis, seeks female, 37-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398825**

GENT mid 70's, seeks genuine lady, 65 plus for outings, holidays etc. leading to relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398575**

32YR old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, likes music, bike rides, country walks and photography, seeks likeminded female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

MALE 70's, honest, caring, attractive, likes socialising, seeks smart, attractive, caring lady for meetings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397975**

DAVID slightly disabled, likes sports, meals out, nights in, seeks female for fun, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393192**

LOOKING for love. Telford male, 46, shaved head, average build, likes walks, meals out, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397941**

STEVE 49, fed up, seeking female for fun and friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393218**

57YR old male, good looking, seeking female for fun times and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397463**

GOOD looking 48yr old male, GSOH, honest, caring, loyal, hurt in past, looking for loving female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394159**

IAN 44, single dad, loving, caring, honest, seeks similar female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392874**

TALL dark, good looking male, 53, seeks attractive female for daytime fun and exciting times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393380**

PAUL 47, short brown hair, blue/green eyes, 6ft, slim, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393456**

TALL male, 64, vitality and brain, seeks lady for discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398235**

MALE fun, outgoing, easy-going, seeking female for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393346**

GOOD looking male, early 50's, 6ft, farmer, outgoing, fun loving, seeking attractive fun loving female, 25-35 who enjoys travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393340**

55YR old male, likes sports, film, nights in, seeking female, 30-45 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398049**

GENT 54, slightly mad but not bad will make you glad you answered this ad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398231**

STEVEN 49, good looking, likes a laugh, pubs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397985**

WEST Midlands single guy 60, strong, WLTM affectionate lady, your place or mine for uncommitted enjoyment. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396807**

BRIAN 60's, ordinary man, strong needs, seeks affectionate lady for close friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396765**

PAUL 60, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397679**

ROY 62, tall, fit, loyal, N/S, looking for that special lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397637**

INDIAN male, UK born, seeks white English female, 35-45 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397509**

JAMES 56, 5ft 9ins, professional, OHAC, independent, no ties, seeking loving relationship with likeminded woman. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397473**

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CD from Dudley, seeking similar of any age for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393450**

CD 70 plus seeking CD 70 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393208**

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892**

GAY male, 34, slim, toned, seeking older guy for fun, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395735**

MALE 44, seeking male, 18-23 for fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391626**

BI male, divorced, young, fit 50, own home/business, seeks male, 18-45 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391849**

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my classified

PEUGEOT 206 1.1cc.02, long tax/ MoT, 37k, very good condition £1400. 0121 5728688/07985 341681

PEUGEOT 206 2000, 1.1, 3 door. long tax/MoT. Very clean. £550. 07807 2771058.

PROTON WIRA 1.5
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07552 801216.

SUZUKI CARRY 1.3 5-dr, 54 reg., white, taxed, MoT'd, 49k miles, economical, £999. 07767 869792.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0, W reg, low mileage, modifications, full MoT, 6 months tax, sound system, £800 ono. 07543 246611.

VW PASSAT 20V 1.8, S reg., auto, blue, tax, MoT, good runner, £599 ono. 01543 682825.

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SUZUKI Hayabusa, black and silver long MoT, has been lowered, lots of extras, £2,750 ono. 01922 475434, 07973 763044.

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Brummies to change day for meetings

BIRMINGHAM Speedway will stage home meetings on Wednesdays next season.

The move follows consultations with supporters.

Selco Brummies officials made the decision to switch from Thursday race nights after asking for feedback on an internet forum.

Joint owner Alan Phillips, who is preparing for his second season alongside business colleague Chris Luty, hopes the move proves popular with the fans.

He is also keen to avoid a clash with Premier League fixtures with the possibility of signing riders to double-up in the top two leagues.

"I am very conscious of the need to take into account the views of supporters and there is no doubt that a switch back to Wednesday evenings is more popular and the majority choice," he said.

"Accordingly, I have decided to change back to our previous Wednesday evening arrangement. I'm also conscious there is less likelihood of Wednesdays clashing with any Premier League meetings so the decision was fairly easy."

Promotion hopefuls are held off

Kingswinford 6 Bloxwich 3

KINGSWINFORD men's hockey firsts held off promotion challengers Bloxwich despite a tense first-half performance.

The home side controlled possession and dictated the early chances.

However, a goalkeeping error saw Bloxwich go ahead although Cole Hickman combined with Ajay Sandhu from a short corner to flick the ball home for the equaliser.

Bal Lally converted another short corner to put the home side ahead, but Bloxwich levelled before half-time.

Kings took the lead again when Kam Mann connected with another good pass from Sandhu. The visitors, true to form, made it 3-3.

However, Kings scored three more times in the remaining 20 minutes. The first was a superb strike from Billy Jawanda before Sandhu got on the scoresheet and Hickman found the net once more.

Birmingham heavyweight Johnny Prescott, left, during his final fight, against Joe Bugner in 1970

Boxer Prescott dies at 74

Obituary

CELEBRATED boxer Johnny Prescott has died after a long illness, aged 74.

The Birmingham heavyweight, whose lifestyle focused the sport's media spotlight on the city in the 1960s and 70s, died at Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield, on Saturday. He won 34 out of 49 fights, including 13 knockouts.

National boxing promoter Bruce Baker said: "I was only a schoolboy boxer when Johnny was fighting, and he was definitely one of my idols.

"He took on some really good people and had a fantastic record.

"He was a true fighter, one of the really great heavyweights, an inspiration. It's very sad – 74 is not very old these days. He probably did not get the recognition he deserved."

The Birmingham City supporter, who was brought up by his grandmother in Henry Street, Nechells, won the Midlands title and challenged for the British and Commonwealth crowns against Henry Cooper.

After one win against Brian London in Blackpool he was photographed with Miss Great Britain Dianne Westbury and Miss World Ann Sidney on each arm. His first fight came in 1961 when he defeated Derek Kilburn on points. He then won nine with knockouts, including the Midland title against Tony Smith.

He suffered his first defeat when he took on Henry Cooper's twin brother Jim in 1963 at the Embassy. But he bounced back and arguably his greatest moment came when he took on Henry Cooper at St Andrew's in 1965.

The fight was postponed for a day because of bad weather and Prescott was stopped in the 10th round, but his efforts earned compliments from critics and champion Cooper. Prescott hung up his gloves in 1970 after losing on points to Joe Bugner.

Haseley's brace sees basement Yellows off

Halesowen 2 Hucknall Town 1

BEN HASELEY'S brace took his season's goal tally to 20 and fired Halesowen to a first win in seven outings.

Halesowen took time settling in this Evo-Stik Northern First Division South game and the defence put their keeper Paul Evans in trouble on 17 minutes as Julian Topliss was left free to lob against the post.

Ten minutes later a deflected Topliss header went wide.

Hucknall keeper James Martin saved from Jean-Michel Gueyes before Haseley headed the Yeltz ahead in the 34th minute after Tom Warmer's free-kick on an impressive debut.

Rock-bottom Hucknall, under new management, got back on level terms two minutes before the break as Rob Austin drove home a shot from the right of the penalty area.

Man of the match Haseley was denied by Martin early in the second half and then saw a 58th-minute shot drift wide.

But Haseley found the target for goal No.20 in the 74th minute, turning the defence on his own before coolly putting away the chance.

Fans' optimism growing after first away victory

Wigan 1 Albion 2

TRY as they might to keep a lid on the excitement swirling around The Hawthorns, the Baggies' performances are creating a fervour they cannot control.

They reached the 20-point mark with this latest impressive day's work at the DW Stadium, ***writes Steve Madeley.***

And even if players and management refuse to abandon their 40-points-first mantra, there is now a real possibility that ecstatic supporters might re-adjust their sights for them.

Saturday's victory ticked one of the few empty boxes on their early-season CV as they recorded a first away league win under Clarke's under-stated but impressive guidance.

And it left them level with the Premier League's top four with almost a third of the season completed.

Sooner or later, the rest of the country will begin to treat Albion as the real deal.

Dangerous

And any time now, Clarke and his men might just need to consider embracing the growing sense of optimism among their supporters that they can adjust their sights this season and aim higher than the traditional scrap for survival.

It will take a while before they dare to shout from the rooftops. But in quiet conversations and private moments, Baggies fans are allowing themselves to consider a challenge for European football.

A visit to the in-form and dangerous Latics represented another significant obstacle in the path of Clarke and his men.

But, with the same confidence and clarity of vision that has underpinned the first three months of the new head coach's tenure, they cleared the bar and prepared to move on to stiffer challenges that lie ahead.

It was not a vintage display by Clarke's team, but it was a performance of poise and purpose that was good enough to overcome a serious hurdle. So far they have found no challenge too big and no mission too daunting to be attacked with conviction.

And it has all been achieved with Clarke enjoying the luxury to rotate an ever-improving squad in a way that no previous Albion manager has felt able to do.

He has done so with a sure touch and the confidence to make his own mark subtly while retaining the best traits of the team he inherited. In 11 Premier League outings under him, only once have Albion failed to perform. Saturday's scalp is the latest reason why the rest of the country might soon have to start taking them seriously.

It took them a while to adjust to the 4-4-2 system employed by Clarke for the first time in competitive action. But they stood firm against a brief flurry of Latics attacks in the opening half-hour before warming to their task and giving their noisy 3,397 fans reason to celebrate on 31 minutes.

Captain Chris Brunt, restored to the starting line-up after injury and struggling at times in the opening moments, suddenly found his range and delivered a perfect cross from the left flank.

James Morrison made superb use of the delivery, steaming in and outjumping Gary Caldwell to head his team in front.

By the time Billy Jones galloped forward and saw his cross-shot deflected in by Caldwell for the own-goal that made it 2-0 on 43 minutes, the Baggies had taken charge of the game.

They made life harder than it need have been just a minute later when they nodded off and allowed Aruna Kone to turn home a Jean Beausejour cross.

But stand-in goalkeeper Boaz Myhill was rarely extended fully after the break with Caldwell's poor header from a set-piece and Franco Di Santo's effort that deflected wide of Kone the closest the Latics got to an equaliser.

When the final whistle confirmed another fabulous victory for Clarke and Co, the even-tempered head coach allowed himself a momentary show of joy with a fist pump and a smile before getting back 'on message'.

But by then the jubilant travelling army of followers were in full voice behind Myhill's goal. At this rate, their volume will continue to increase along with the height of their ambitions.

Smile time for Billy Jones after his cross goes in off Gary Caldwell

Romelu Lukaku powers forward during Albion's win

Barbarians in weekend washout

BIRMINGHAM Barbarians suffered a disappointing weekend of rugby union with both first and second XVs recording losses.

Birmingham Barbarians 7 Evesham 15

The firsts went down in a closely-fought contest. Roy Fisher's young side fought valiantly but spurned a host of chances. A lone try from Luke Todd, converted by Ben Mayfield, was all they had to show for their efforts.

Aston Old Edwardians 53 Birminham Barbarians 5

The seconds were on the wrong end of a heavy defeat with fly-half Dave Lawley claiming their only try with a trademark drive from close range.

The club, based at Moor Lane in Perry Barr, are on the lookout for new players with training taking place on Tuesday evenings. Contact Dave Lawley on 07745 057936 or visit www.bhambarbarians.co.uk

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SPORT

Ring star
Boxer Prescott dies, aged 74
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Right road
Jubilant Baggies get first away win
Page 55

Sports Desk 01902 319461 e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Night of awards to honour achievers

SPORTSMEN and women from across the Black Country took to the red carpet for the 2012 Black Country Sport & Physical Activity Awards.

It was a chance to celebrate achievements of the past 12 sporting months in the Black Country as well as recognise Olympics and Paralympics. There were 18 awards at the Copthorne Hotel, Dudley, including:

Community Games Event of the Year, Tipton BMX

This was organised after consultation with young people. Sandwell Leisure Trust, Young People's Services and Parks and Countryside Management worked together to organise an event for BMX riders in Victoria Park, Tipton. It included BMX sessions, music, the Sandwell Youth Bus, design a baseball cap and have a go at dj-ing.

Sportivate Project of the Year, Get Active Go Fish

This Sandwell Academy project has seen normally non-sporty people, or those with low self-esteem, succeed for the first time. All 10 of the 14 and 15-year-olds involved are keen to continue fishing. The project encourages families to engage with their children. Coaching was inspirational and enthused others.

Full report and pictures next week

Club still in the running

WEST Bromwich Harriers lie 10th out of 17 clubs after the first Birmingham Invitation Cross-Country League match at Newbould Common, Leamington Spa.

With top runners unavailable, Harriers lost ground as Nuneaton Harriers set the pace. But Harriers, relegated from Division Two last season, are in striking distance of the promotion slots.

James Jefferson was first man home for the Harriers, finishing the 10km course in 39 min 55 sec for fifth place.

Girmal Dehl was 15th (41.40) and Steve Pitt 50th (44.47). Dave Jones (at the age of 59) was 100th in 48.46, Dominic Ashton 110th in 49.45 and John Dixon 123rd in 50.36.

West Bromwich also fielded a second team who were seventh of seven.

The next league race is at Burbage Common, Nuneaton, on December 1.

Andy Clarke, of Wednesbury seconds, demonstrates the art of the hand-off

Wednesbury go out

Old Leamingtonians 55 Wednesbury 0

INJURY-HIT Wednesbury went out of the Senior Vase at the third round stage with this heavy defeat to Old Leamingtonians.

Wednesbury, as has been the case for most of the season, were without several players as their injury list grows by the week.

They had 11 players missing from their squad which was always going to result in a tough match.

A well-drilled Old Leamingtonians outfit inevitably put Wednesbury to the sword. But the determined visitors battled away throughout with Rhys Nickle and Mitch Grearly having excellent games and young Rob Embery making his first team debut.

On Saturday, Wednesbury return to Midlands Three West (North) action away to Willenhall (2.15pm).

The first team injury list had a knock-on effect, leaving the second team also badly depleted.

However, they put up a spirited performance at home to a very good Leek second team, losing 55-5.

Wednesbury's points came from a try by John Cleaver. As with the first, the seconds fought hard and Sam Summers and Andy Clarke enjoyed good matches.

RING-RUSTY MALE FAILS TO POST WIN

RING RUST proved costly as Cradley's Chris Male paid for a poor start and conceded the English featherweight title to Josh Warrington at Dudley's The Venue.

by Craig Birch

Some 14 months out of the ring certainly took its toll on Male, who didn't get into his stride until it was too late against the busy Warrington, from Leeds, during their 10-round contest for the vacant belt.

But the punching postman showed real guts when he was tagged for real – possibly the first time as a professional – in the fourth round but didn't go down.

Male was in real trouble when a looping right hand landed bang on his chin. But he didn't go over and managed to remain upright even when the same shot came back over the top with similar effect by the end of the session.

Once the seventh round was in full flow, Male started to show his true form as Warrington's floods of punches began to miss their target.

Josh Warrington wins the verdict over Chris Male

Sharp

Male worked away to the body but was wrapped up inside. By this time only a stoppage would suffice, but he never found the opportunity for the truly clean shot he needed.

Judges Shaun Messer, Terry O'Connor and Victor Loughlin all ruled unanimously in favour of Warrington by scores of 97-95, 94-92 and 98-93 respectively.

On the undercard, stablemates Steven Pearce, Kyle Spencer and Riswan Rasool extended their unbeaten records. The trio, all out of Shaun Cooper's gym in Brierley Hill, got started when Kingswinford's Spencer looked very sharp again in shutting out William Warburton on points, 40-36, at light-middleweight.

Dudley's Rasool picked up his second professional win since turning over in March in what his first competitive fight for over a decade by the same margin as his debut, 39-38, over Kristian Laight.

'Fierce Pearce', the light-welterweight from Stourbridge, bashed away at the durable Aaron Fox but couldn't get the game Wiltshire combatant out of there.

Like Spencer, Pearce had to settle for a points shut-out, bumping him up to six straight wins as a professional.

Chris Male, right, and Josh Warrington battle it out for the English featherweight title at Dudley. *Pictures: Steve Leath*

Reid has sights set high

ALBION defender Steven Reid reckons the Baggies can emulate Newcastle's charge into Europe and declared: "The sky's the limit."

But the Hawthorns favourite insisted Premier League survival remains the first target for Steve Clarke's side, despite their flying start to the season.

Reid hopes to return to the Baggies squad to face Chelsea on Saturday with Clarke's men sitting fifth in the table with 20 points from their opening 11 games.

While he insists Albion cannot become complacent, he believes they can follow in the footsteps of Newcastle, who made a surprise charge to fifth place last season to claim a Europa League spot.

"It's the highest points total that I've had at this stage in 10 years as a Premier League player," he said.

The team were in Champions League form and if they kept a fully-fit squad there was no reason why thouy could not kick on.

"We've got to get to that 40-point mark. It's boring to say it, but we do, and I think the real aim for this season has got to be minimum top-half," he said.

Tickets on sale for Aussie clash

TICKETS are on sale for what could be the series decider as England's netball team take on world champions Australia at the NIA, Birmingham.

The teams square up on January 26 to conclude the three-match series. Before then, they meet at Bath and Liverpool. For tickets go to www.theticketfactory.com or call 0844 338 8000.

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